

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature  
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate  
April 17, 2008

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY PRESIDING

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Good morning ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the sixtieth day of the One Hundredth Legislature, Second Session. Our chaplain for this morning is Senator Kruse. Would you all please rise.

SENATOR KRUSE: (Prayer offered.)

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Kruse. I call to order the sixtieth day of the One Hundredth Legislature, Second Session. Senators, please record your presence by roll call. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Are there corrections for the Journal?

CLERK: I have no corrections, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Messages, reports, or announcements?

CLERK: Mr. President, a communication from the Governor. (Read re. LB245 and LB245A.) Mr. President, LR238 is reported correctly enrolled. Report of registered lobbyists this week, and a series of reports received in the Clerk's Office, on file and available for member review. That's all that I have, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 1543-1546.) [LB245 LB245A LR238]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk, we will now move to Final Reading. Members should return to their seats in preparation for Final Reading. Mr. Clerk, the first bill is LB308. [LB308]

CLERK: (Read LB308 on Final Reading.) [LB308]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB308 pass with the emergency clause attached? All in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB308]

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CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1546.) 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB308]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB308 passes with the emergency clause attached. We will now proceed to LB308A. [LB308 LB308A]

CLERK: (Read LB308A on Final Reading.) [LB308A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB308A pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB308A]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1547.) 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB308A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB308A passes. We will now proceed to LB469. [LB308A LB469]

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to return the bill for specific amendment. (FA278, Legislative Journal page 1547.) [LB469]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your motion to return. [LB469]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it should be clear that I support this bill, that I'm going to support it, but in the past I have utilized other senators' bills on Final Reading to make a comment when I thought it was necessary, then I would withdraw the motion, which is what I intend to do this morning. As I've stated publicly, I think the Governor has been "statespersonlike" in his dealing with the recent US Supreme Court decision upholding lethal injection, at least in general, as a method of execution. I watched some of his interview yesterday and there's a correction that I have to make. Since I've spent so much time correcting my colleagues when it comes to legislation and other things, it's appropriate that I go out the way that I've been here, with a correction of the Governor. He had stated that there will not be any need to have a special session, which is very "statespersonlike." And then he said, kind of with a mischievous smile on his cherubic face, however, if Senator Chambers and some others--he probably meant Senator Ashford and other members of the Judiciary Committee--would see fit to support lethal injection, it would make life a lot easier. I think what he meant to say and ought to have said is, it would make death a lot easier. Thank you, Mr. President. I withdraw that motion. [LB469]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. The motion to return is

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withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, we'll continue to proceed with LB469. [LB469]

CLERK: (Read LB469 on Final Reading.) [LB469]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB469 pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB469]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1548.) 39 ayes, 5 nays, 2 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB469]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB469 passes. (Visitors introduced.) We will now proceed to LB609. [LB469 LB609]

CLERK: (Read LB609 on Final Reading.) [LB609]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB609 pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB609]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1548-1549.) 44 ayes, 0 nays, 2 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB609]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB609 passes. We will now proceed to LB609A. [LB609 LB609A]

CLERK: (Read LB609A on Final Reading.) [LB609A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB609A pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB609A]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1549-1550.) 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB609A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB609A passes with the emergency clause attached. Speaker Flood, you are recognized for an announcement. [LB609A]

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. As we proceed on today, I thought I'd update you on a change we're going to make with regard to the agenda. After we complete Final Reading, we're going to take up legislative resolutions, congratulatory in nature. And we will take up the overrides at 1:30 p.m. this afternoon and then proceed with the balance of our agenda. Repeating, after Final Reading today

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we will go straight to legislative resolutions, congratulatory in nature, and at 1:30 p.m. we will take up gubernatorial overrides. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Speaker Flood. We will now proceed to LB720. [LB720]

CLERK: (Read LB720 on Final Reading.) [LB720]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB720 pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB720]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1550.) 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB720]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB720 passes. We will now proceed to LB734. [LB720 LB734]

CLERK: (Read LB734 on Final Reading.) [LB734]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB734 pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB734]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1551.) 46 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB734]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB734 passes. (Visitors introduced.) We will now proceed to LB746. [LB734 LB746]

CLERK: (Read LB746 on Final Reading.) [LB746]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB746 pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB746]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1551-1552.) 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB746]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB746 passes. We will now proceed to LB781. [LB746 LB781]

CLERK: (Read LB781 on Final Reading.) [LB781]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied

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with, the question is, shall LB781 pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB781]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1552-1553.) 46 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB781]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB781 passes. We will now proceed to LB819. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB781 LB819]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 35 ayes, 5 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President. [LB819]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB819]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read title of LB819.) [LB819]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB819 pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB819]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1553-1554.) The vote is 27 ayes, 20 nays, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB819]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The bill does not pass with the emergency clause attached. The next vote will be, shall LB819 pass with the emergency clause stricken? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB819]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1554.) The vote is 28 ayes, 17 nays, 2 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB819]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB819 passes. We will now proceed to LB837. [LB819 LB837]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB837 on Final Reading.) [LB837]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB837 pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB837]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1554-1555.) The vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused and not voting. [LB837]

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB837 passes. We will now proceed to LB846. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB837 LB846]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 39 ayes, 3 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President. [LB846]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB846]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read title of LB846.) [LB846]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB846 pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB846]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1555-1556.) The vote is 39 ayes, 5 nays, 3 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB846]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB846 passes. We will now proceed to LB846A. [LB846 LB846A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, motion on the desk. Senator Fischer would move to return LB846A to Select File for specific amendment, that amendment being to strike the enacting clause. [LB846A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Fischer, you are recognized to open on your motion to return to Select File. [LB846A]

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. The A bill is no longer needed on LB846 and I would ask that you vote against LB846A when it comes up on Final Reading. With that, I would withdraw my amendment. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB846A LB846]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Fischer. The motion to return is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, we'll continue with LB846A. [LB846A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB846A on Final Reading.) [LB846A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB846A pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay.

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Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB846A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1556-1557.) The vote is 1 aye, 40 nays, 6 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President, on the passage of the bill. [LB846A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB846A does not pass. (Visitors introduced.) Mr. Clerk, the next bill is LB911. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB846A LB911]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 33 ayes, 6 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President. [LB911]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB911]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read title of LB911.) [LB911]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB911 pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB911]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1558.) The vote is 33 ayes, 9 nays, 5 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB911]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB911 passes. (Visitors introduced.) We will now proceed to LB911A. [LB911 LB911A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB911A on Final Reading.) [LB911A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB911A pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB911A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1558-1559.) The vote is 39 ayes, 3 nays, 5 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB911A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB911A passes. We will now proceed to LB928. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB911A LB928]

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ASSISTANT CLERK: 32 ayes, 4 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President. [LB928]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB928]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read title of LB928.) [LB928]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB928 pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB928]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1560.) The vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused and not voting. [LB928]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB928 passes with the emergency clause attached. We'll now proceed to LB928A. [LB928 LB928A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB928A on Final Reading.) [LB928A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB928A pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB928A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1560-1561.) The vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused and not voting. [LB928A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB928A passes. We will now proceed to LB986. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB928A LB986]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 38 ayes, 3 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President. [LB986]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB986]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read title of LB986.) [LB986]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB986 pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB986]

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ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1561-1562.) The vote is 42 ayes, 4 nays, 1 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB986]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB986 passes. We will now proceed to LB986A. [LB986 LB986A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB986A on Final Reading.) [LB986A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB986A pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB986A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1562-1563.) The vote is 38 ayes, 3 nays, 6 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB986A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB986A passes. (Doctor of the day introduced.) We will now proceed to LB1022. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB986A LB1022]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 32 ayes, 4 nays to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB1022]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB1022]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read title of LB1022.) [LB1022]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1022 pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB1022]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1563-1564.) The vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused and not voting. [LB1022]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB1022 passes. We will now proceed to LB1027. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB1022 LB1027]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 36 ayes, 3 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President. [LB1027]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read

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the title. [LB1027]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read title of LB1027.) [LB1027]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1027 pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB1027]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1564.) The vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused and not voting. [LB1027]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB1027 passes. We will now proceed to LB1027A. [LB1027 LB1027A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB1027A on Final Reading.) [LB1027A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1027A pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Madam Clerk. [LB1027A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1565.) The vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB1027A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB1027A passes. We will now proceed to LB1055, Madam Clerk. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Madam Clerk. [LB1027A LB1055]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 39 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President on dispensing with the at-large reading. [LB1055]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Madam Clerk, please read the title. [LB1055]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read title of LB1055.) [LB1055]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1055 pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Madam Clerk. [LB1055]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal 1566.) The vote is 44 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 4 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB1055]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB1055 passes with the emergency clause attached. We will

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now proceed to LB1147. Madam Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Madam Clerk. [LB1055 LB1147]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 36 ayes, 5 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President. [LB1147]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Madam Clerk, please read the title. [LB1147]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read title of LB1147.) [LB1147]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1147 pass with the emergency clause attached? All in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Madam Clerk. [LB1147]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1567.) The vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 4 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB1147]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB1147 passes with the emergency clause attached. We will now proceed to LB1147A. [LB1147 LB1147A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB1147A on Final Reading.) [LB1147A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1147A pass? All in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Record please, Madam Clerk. [LB1147A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1567-1568.) The vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 4 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB1147A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB1147A passes. We will now proceed to LB1172. [LB1147A LB1172]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB1172 on Final Reading.) [LB1172]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1172 pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Madam Clerk. [LB1172]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1568.) The vote is 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB1172]

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB1172 passes. We will now proceed to LB1172A. [LB1172 LB1172A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB1172A on Final Reading.) [LB1172A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1172A pass? All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Madam Clerk. [LB1172A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1569.) The vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB1172A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LB1172A passes. We will now proceed to LR229CA. [LB1172A LR229CA]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LR229CA on Final Reading.) [LR229CA]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LR229CA pass providing for the submission of such proposition at the next general election? This does require 30 votes. All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LR229CA]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1571.) 46 ayes, 0 nays, 2 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LR229CA]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LR229CA passes. (Visitors introduced.) While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LB308, LB308A, LB469, LB609, LB609A, LB720, LB734, LB746, LB781, LB819, LB837, LB846, LB911, LB911A, LB928, LB928A, LB986, LB986A, LB1022, LB1027, LB1027A, LB1055, LB1147, LB1147A, LB1172, LB1172A, and LR229CA. Mr. Clerk, do you have items for the record? [LR229CA LB308 LB308A LB469 LB609 LB609A LB720 LB734 LB746 LB781 LB819 LB837 LB846 LB911 LB911A LB928 LB928A LB986 LB986A LB1022 LB1027 LB1027A LB1055 LB1147 LB1147A LB1172 LB1172A LR229CA]

CLERK: Mr. President, not at this time, thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Continuing on with the agenda, we will now move to legislative resolutions.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first resolution, LR378, offered by Senator Erdman. [LR378]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Erdman, you're recognized to open on LR378. [LR378]

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SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I offer LR378 in honor of Ray and Wanda Satchell. They have been married for 60 years. They have also resided on their same farmstead for that same period of time since they've been married, and I would encourage your adoption of this resolution congratulating them on their commitment to one another. Thank you, Mr. President. [LR378]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Erdman. You've heard the opening of LR378. Floor is open for discussion. Any members requesting to speak? Seeing no requests to speak, we'll move to LR391. [LR378 LR391]

CLERK: LR391, Mr. President, introduced by Senator Heidemann. [LR391]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Heidemann, you're recognized to open on LR391. [LR391]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor, fellow members of the body. I urge you to support LR391. It congratulates Jacob Dean Knutson for earning the rank of Eagle Scout and for all the hard work and effort he has put into it. Thank you. [LR391]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Heidemann. You've heard LR391. Anyone wishing to speak? Seeing none, Mr. Clerk, we'll move to LR392. [LR391 LR392]

CLERK: LR392, Mr. President, offered by Senator Pirsch. [LR392]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Pirsch, you're recognized on LR392. [LR392]

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. The resolution seeks to declare May 1, 2008 as "Keep Kids Alive-Drive 25 Day". That's an organization that is devoted to the cause of reminding people how important it is to be mindful of the speeds with which they drive in residential neighborhoods. [LR392]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. You've heard LR392. Is there anyone wishing to speak? Seeing none, Mr. Clerk, we'll move to LR393. [LR392 LR393]

CLERK: LR393 by Senator Christensen. [LR393]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Christensen, you're recognized on LR393. [LR393]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Yeah, I'd like to have everybody recognize Todd Allen Ford with his achievement of the Eagle rank Scout. Thanks. [LR393]

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Christensen. Other members requesting to speak on LR393? Seeing none, we'll continue to LR394. [LR393 LR394]

CLERK: LR394, introduced by Senator Christensen. [LR394]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Christensen, you're recognized on LR394. [LR394]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Recognition of Emily Bryan is for the highest Girl Scout award, which is the Gold Award, and I'd just like to recognize her. Thank you. [LR394]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Christensen. Are there members requesting to speak on LR394? Seeing none, Mr. Clerk, we'll continue to LR395. [LR394 LR395]

CLERK: LR395, offered by Senator Christensen. [LR395]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Christensen, you're recognized on LR395. [LR395]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, Kim Ellicott is just another award taker of the highest level of the Girl Scouts. Thank you. [LR395]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Christensen. You're heard LR395. Seeing no requests to speak, Mr. Clerk, LR396. [LR395 LR396]

CLERK: LR396, Mr. President, offered by Senator Christensen. [LR396]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Christensen, you're recognized for LR396. [LR396]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Kelsey Coleridge is another award recipient from my area on the highest award of Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. Thank you. [LR396]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Christensen. You've heard LR396. Seeing no requests, we'll move to LR397. [LR396 LR397]

CLERK: LR397 offered by Senator Christensen. [LR397]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Christensen, you're recognized on LR397. [LR397]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Briana Licht is another Girl Scout Gold Award winner. I just wanted to recognize all these young ladies and men for their great awards and standing out in their communities and achieving these awards. Thank you. [LR397]

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Christensen. You've heard LR397. Seeing no requests to speak, we'll move to LR398. [LR397 LR398]

CLERK: LR398 by Senator Langemeier. [LR398]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Langemeier, you're recognized on LR398. [LR398]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Mr. President, members of the body, I'd like to recognize Mike Nolan for his 28 years of service to the city of Norfolk and making Norfolk one of the most progressive Class I cities in the state. Thank you. [LR398]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Langemeier. Other members wishing to speak are Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Flood. Senator Schimek. [LR398]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Flood, if you would like to take some of my time and speak and then give it back to me, that would be great. [LR398]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Flood, you're yielded 4 minutes. [LR398]

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. And I want to say on the record I would have introduced this resolution myself, except that I'm at my eight resolution limit, believe it or not, under the rules of the Legislature. And I want to thank Senator Langemeier for introducing this. Michael Nolan is the dean of city administrators in the state of Nebraska. He has been there just about as long as I've been alive, and he has done great work to move Norfolk progressively into the future. He has received almost...well, actually every award that can be bestowed upon a city public official as the city administrator. He is a thinker, he's a worker, and he negotiates on behalf of the city within the city's citizens and with other entities and communities across the state. I just want to tell you how supportive I am of this legislative resolution and look forward to its adoption. Thank you, Senator Schimek, for your time. I give you the balance. [LR398]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Schimek. [LR398]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of LR398 and I do so, particularly, because I'm going to be unable to go to Norfolk to his going away party, if you will. And in the years I spent as Government Committee Chair and on that committee, I did have occasion to observe Mike Nolan many times. And there was nobody more passionate or more thorough or more committed than Mike Nolan. He did a fabulous job for the city of Norfolk, and I think it's very fitting that we honor him with this kind of recognition. Thank you, Mr. President. [LR398]

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PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Thank you, Senator Flood. No additional requests to speak. We'll now continue with LR401. [LR398 LR401]

CLERK: LR401, offered by Senator Dwite Pedersen. [LR401]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Pedersen, you're recognized on LR401. [LR401]

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature. LR401 recognizes all of those employees who have been with State Fair Park throughout the years, and the volunteers, and the people with the racing industry who have been at State Fair Park and thanking them for all of their years of service and encouraging all of those who are involved in the possible, most likely, move of State Fair Park to Grand Island to consider these people as they look for new employment, if they need to look for new employment. But most of all again to thank them for all they have done for us throughout the years. Thank you. [LR401]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. You've heard LR401. Members requesting to speak, Senator Wallman. [LR401]

SENATOR WALLMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Pedersen, for bringing this forth. I think, too, we have to make sure we don't forget the people who have the horses, and they've contributed to the fair for many, many years. And they had horse shows, horse races, and we want to continue to have that and remember the horse people. Thank you, Mr. President. [LR401]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Wallman. Are there additional members requesting to speak? Seeing none...(visitors introduced). You have heard the legislative resolutions, congratulatory in nature. The question before the body is on the adoption of the legislative resolutions. All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LR378 LR391 LR392 LR393 LR394 LR395 LR396 LR397 LR398 LR401]

CLERK: 38 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the resolutions. [LR378 LR391 LR392 LR393 LR394 LR395 LR396 LR397 LR398 LR401]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: The resolutions are adopted. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LR378, LR391, LR392, LR393, LR394, LR395, LR396, LR397, LR398, LR401, and LR238CA. Items for the record, Mr. Clerk? [LR378 LR391 LR392 LR393 LR394 LR395 LR396 LR397 LR398 LR401 LR298CA]

CLERK: Mr. President, a reference report referring LR402 and LR403. LB819 is reported correctly enrolled. Communication from the Governor. (Read re: LB895 and

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LB853.) A second communication. (From Governor, read re: LB745, LB806, LB830, LB830A, LB907, LB953, LB956, LB995, LB1072, LB1153, and LB1165.) That's all that I have, Mr. President. [LB819 LR402 LR403 LB895 LB853 LB747 LB806 LB830 LB830A LB907 LB953 LB956 LB995 LB1072 LB1153 LB1165]

Mr. President, priority motion. Senator Hansen would move to recess until 1:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the motion to recess until 1:30 p.m. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. We are recessed.

RECESS

SENATOR LANGEMEIER PRESIDING

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. The afternoon session is about to reconvene. Senators, please return to the Chamber and record your presence. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Do you have any items for the record?

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. Bills read on Final Reading this morning were presented to the Governor at 11:25 a.m. (In re: LB308, LB308A, LB469, LB609, LB609A, LB720, LB734, LB746, LB781, LB819, LB837, LB846, LB911, LB911A, LB928, LB928A, LB986, LB986A, LB1022, LB1027, LB1027A, LB1055, LB1147, LB1147A, LB1172, and LB1172A.) And the constitutional amendment passed, LR229CA, was presented to the Secretary of State at 11:25 a.m. That's all that I had, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 1574.) [LB308 LB308A LB469 LB609 LB609A LB720 LB734 LB746 LB781 LB819 LB837 LB846 LB911 LB911A LB928 LB928A LB986 LB986A LB1022 LB1027 LB1027A LB1055 LB1147 LB1147A LB1172 LB1172A LR229CA]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will proceed now to the first items on this afternoon's agenda, motions to override gubernatorial vetoes. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Johnson would move that LB245 become law, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Senator Johnson, you are recognized to open on your motion to override the veto. [LB245]

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SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I come here, I guess, disappointed that the Governor did not sign this bill. I deliberately chose this bill and one other one, because it was the two best ways that we could improve the health of Nebraskans and save money while we did it. I cannot understand how he can depart from what we have attempted to do. Let me go through a few of the things that are in his letter. First of all, we talk about mandates. This morning I looked it up, and what "mandate" says is it is an authoritarian command, a formal order--in other words, a requirement that you cannot avoid. Well, let's talk about a few of these things. Conducting a ballot initiative--how much does that cost? We have deliberately extended the time for when this could be put on the ballot so that there would be two general elections. We made it easy. All that needs to be done is for the village board or town council, or if they don't choose to, an initiative petition will put it on the ballot. It would be in enough time so that there would be two general elections. I would ask, how much does it cost to put two lines on the ballot for a general election? Now how about a few other things? What about the cost to taxpayers, which is also mentioned in the Governor's veto message? The decision to fluoridate local water, he says, should remain a local decision. Governor, please read the bill again. It is a local decision. It provides for easy local elections to make the decision at negligible cost. One of the next things that's mentioned is that capital costs are \$5,000 or so per injection site. We had this in mind when we put the bill together. Senator Tom Hansen called our attention to this because of the potential specific problems of his community of North Platte, where there would be multiple injection sites. That's why...and one of the reasons we made the opt-out clause so easy is to accommodate cities where the cost would not be reasonable for the populous to consider. And we also added an amendment that made it so that rural water districts would be totally excluded. Now ongoing costs--50 cents per person, per year. To have one cavity repaired, the average cost is over \$100. In other words, if you can keep from having one cavity fixed, it will pay for your lifetime share of what the cost would be on an ongoing basis. Why support what we're trying to do? Governor and members of the Legislature, it's because, if no other reason, it saves money. It is the biggest single savings in dental or oral health, and this is whether it applies to Medicaid or to individual private pay. The savings are not minimal, like the cost of the election. The potential savings are huge. One last comment: We all are familiar and actually use it our daily conversations of the word "toothache." Toothaches are mentioned in this way, because they are real pain. In fact, it's one of the leading causes why kids miss school. What we have is real people, young and old, who have toothache pain and other problems because of poor dentition. I'd go back to what I said originally--I do not understand the Governor's reasoning that he expressed in his letter to those of us here in the Legislature. Governor, this saves huge amounts of money, it improves the health of all Nebraskans, rich or poor. I'd ask you to think of one thing down the line, and what it is, is this: You know, five or ten years from now, the smile you might see on somebody's toothy face you might have helped put there. With that, I would ask for your vote to override the Governor's veto. Thank you. [LB245]

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SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Thank you, Senator Johnson. You have heard the open on the motion to override the veto. The floor is now open for discussion. Those wishing to speak, we have Senator Chambers, Rogert, and Aguilar. Senator Chambers, you're recognized. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is Senator Johnson's bill. He is approaching the veto in the way that he must. Certain allegations and contentions were offered by the Governor, so Senator Johnson is more or less constrained to address those items, even though they lack merit, even though they are invalid. Were he not to address them, it would seem that by not confronting them he's conceding that they have value and justify the veto. It's not my bill. I don't have to deal with those straw persons. I can look at the issue. This has become a political, not a health, issue. Now I've been told that my view that the children in the district that I represent--and I don't mean just a neighborhood, I'm talking about poor children throughout the state--my conviction that the use of fluoride has diminished the number of cavities they have, I've been told that that's my imagination and I've been conned, that it's all psychological. And I say this: If we've reached the point where psychology can prevent cavities, then I'm for that. And if the psychological conviction is based on the presence of fluoride in the water, let technology combine with those advancements in mental health and produce a complete product which will get at what we want, which is dental health--oral hygiene. I'd like to ask Senator...I hate to do this. I'd like to ask Senator Preister a question or two. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Senator Preister, would you yield? [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: I would be most happy to. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The reason I said what I did, Senator Preister and I are not often on opposite sides, but when that occurs, he definitely is wrong. He's strayed from the teachings, and I'm going to try to bring him back to the fold. (Laughter) Senator Preister, in all seriousness these questions are being asked. Was there ever a time when you were convinced that fluoride in drinking water helped prevent cavities in children? [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: There was a time that I didn't know, so I was open and unsure. I wasn't opposed to it always. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right. Now you developed that opposition as you came into information that made you believe, as you've told us over and over, that fluoride not only when ingested is not healthful, but it can actually be harmful. You came to that conclusion after obtaining certain information which was persuasive to you; is that right or wrong? [LB245]

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SENATOR PREISTER: That is correct, Senator. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Before you had that information, that was not your opinion, was it? [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: That's correct. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Am I entitled to follow my mind and operate on the facts as I understand them to be? [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: Of course. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Would you want me, knowing me as you do, to change my view simply because somebody I respect, as I respect you, would have a position other than the one that I hold? [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: I would hope that I would have been more persuasive, so that I could have persuaded you to change your mind. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But you would want me to be persuaded, and not just blindly like a lemming, follow you because of the respect that I have for you? [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: And because I respect you, Senator Chambers, I would want you to do what you believed, truly believed, on your own, and came to your own conclusion was the right thing to do. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you for that. Now do you mean to tell us--and I haven't heard you say this--that there's only one credible or reasonable view that can be taken on this subject, and that all legitimate controversy has been resolved? [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: I don't know that I've said all legitimate controversy has been resolved, but I felt it important that I was a voice giving information of other than it being a benefit. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: One minute. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So you would concede that there may be people with credible credentials, training, experience, knowledge and information who may hold an opposite position to yours? [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: There certainly are those people that hold that opposite position, and they're credible... [LB245]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: And you've never suggested that? What did you say, Mr. President? Oh. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Thirty seconds. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, I will stop now. I couldn't ask a question which he'd have time to answer. Thank you, and thank you, Senator Preister. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Rogert, you're recognized. [LB245]

SENATOR ROBERT: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, staff, special guests, and citizens of the state of Nebraska that are watching here today, there's a lot of things going on this afternoon. I'm taking an opportunity right now to tell a story and make an announcement, rather than later, because I wanted all the interested parties to be present. A few weeks ago I was thinking of how we could honor some of the folks that are here and will be leaving, and one in particular, our longest serving, senior member of the Legislature. And it was suggested to me by a very thoughtful staff person working here in the building that I take up a collection for a scholarship program. There was a young woman shot and killed a few months back in a drive-in...in a driveway of a fast food restaurant in Omaha. Her name was Brittany Williams. She was a bright, young junior nursing student at University of Nebraska at Omaha, and she represented a lot for her community. She was very talented, very bright, and she gave hope to those in her community that wanted more. Over the past few days, couple weeks, I've been asking members of the Legislature, our staff, those interested parties that work with us on a regular basis, to reach into their pockets and give a little bit in honor of Senator Chambers, who has done more for his community than probably anyone ever in this body. And I want to announce to him today that as of today, I've collected a little over \$2,500 that will be donated to the University of Nebraska Foundation for the Brittany Williams memorial scholarship. In addition, President Milliken has offered to match those funds. So we will be putting a deposit of over \$5,000 into that scholarship fund in honor of our longest serving member of the Legislature, Senator Ernie Chambers. Will you please join me in thanking him. Mr. President, I yield my time to Senator Chambers. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Senator Chambers, 2 minutes. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, a person who is truly wise knows when to speak and when to remain silent, and this is one of those instances when the latter course should be followed and I, wanting to be wise, will do so. I would just say thank you, Senator Rogert, and thanks to those who have contributed to a cause that I think is very worthwhile. And please, don't clap. I'm not resentful. I'm just a little different when it comes to things like that. I'm not being

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unappreciative, I'm not antisocial. But if you want to do something that I would really appreciate, keep it cool, if you don't mind. (Laughter) Thank you. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Thank you, Senator Chambers and Senator Rogert. (Visitor introduced.) Returning now to discussion on the motion to override the gubernatorial veto, those wishing to speak: We have Senators Aguilar, Chambers, Janssen, Preister. Senator Aguilar, you're recognized. [LB245]

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members, and family. I rise in support of the motion to override this, and quite simply, I look at it like this. The points were laid out quite well by Senator Johnson. Senator Chambers spoke on behalf of the poor people, as he always does, with great feeling. I would like to say to each one of you, you have an opportunity here today to do something very important, and it's your responsibility to your constituencies to help reduce the cost of Medicaid. We can do that, folks, with 30 votes. I ask for 30 green lights. Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Chambers had some questions he may continue with on my time. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Senator Chambers, 4 minutes. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Aguilar. And Senator Preister, if you are willing to continue discussing this with me. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Senator Preister, would you yield? [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: I am willing. Yes, I will yield. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Preister, having agreed that there...let me ask a direct question. I think I understood you to suggest that reasonable minds can differ on this question. [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: Reasonable minds can differ on most questions. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right. Now is it your view that the ingestion of fluoride in water all these years has not been of any therapeutic value, as far as preventing or limiting tooth decay to the children who have received fluoride in the water? [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: There are studies that have done double blinds in Indian reservations, Native American environments with poor children there, and they have shown that in those communities where fluoride was used, compared to those that did not receive fluoride, there was no difference in the number of dental caries. So based on that, I think there are studies that can say it has not done the good that we've been told it did. [LB245]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Preister, have there been any credible studies of areas of cities such as those where I would live and the people I represent, to see if, in reality, those children have benefited or not? And here's what I'm getting to. If a test is conducted on a certain population whose living conditions, diet, and other things can have a part to play, you might arrive at conclusions valid for that group, but it may not be applicable in the same way to other groups. So have there been studies made of poor children in black communities and white communities which would demonstrate that no value has been received from fluoride in the water? [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: There are lots of studies. I don't know that I could tell you of a specific study either way. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So they go both ways, such studies. [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: There's a lot of conflicting data and different studies. And one of the things that you well know, when you have data and you don't like it, you challenge the credibility of the source. So some of that has been happening in some of the studies. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, and that's all I will ask you at this point, Senator Preister. Members of the Legislature, I had very serious problems with my teeth when I was younger, and I brushed my teeth. Fluoride came along after I was no longer a child. My children, children with whom they played, did not have problems with cavities that I, my brothers and sisters, and the children... [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: One minute. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...growing up with me had. And I lived in the projects. My children, when they were young, lived in the projects and spent many years there. So I had direct contact with these children. I was concerned about their health and what kind of programs might be available to assist them. I think a sound mind and a sound body is the ideal to be striven for, and I'm convinced that fluoride has been of help. If I were not convinced, I would not support it. I have seen nothing that is so convincing as to change my mind. Senator Preister has mentioned certain organizations which no longer support fluoride in the water. But I cannot, simply because of what those organizations have taken as a position, go contrary to what my own experience and observation will tell me. So at this time,... [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Time. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I still believe fluoride is of value, and I will support the override. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB245]

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SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Thank you, Senator Chambers, and thank you, Senator Aguilar. Senator Chambers, your light is next, and you are recognized. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, Mr. President, let me make clear what I meant when I said this has become a political issue. I'm not implicating Senator Preister. I'm not going to say it's not political with him, but I don't think he's taken a political approach in his presentation. The Governor is as much a politician as any of us is. Each one of us is a politician. The Legislature is a political body. The Governor's Office is a political office. When statements are made about money and the kinds of things that Senator Johnson adequately counteracted, that makes it clear that we're dealing with political questions. If I were going to conduct myself in that fashion, what I would do is put some water on my finger and go out when the wind is blowing and see which direction it's coming from and how strong it is, and that would guarantee what I would do. My good friend Senator Karpisek, as much as I've come to respect him, in spite of the fact that as a meat merchant he doesn't know the difference between sausage and hotdogs, he has another failing: He will often tell us that he got a postcard and that changed his vote. He got several postcards. I wasn't here long enough to do the research necessary to find out how many postcards he needed to get to sway him, because if he'd have once told me that, I would have had enough postcards sent to him to double that number, and he would have voted the way I wanted him to vote. And I call him my postcard friend. The point I'm using all that to get at, is to get at this: I believe children's health is at issue here. I don't believe I'm superstitious. If I find something to be based on superstition, I don't automatically reject it. I will look at it to see if there is a grain or kernel of validity into it which people exaggerated and turned it into a superstition, which if you strip all the superstition away, you will find something that has validity, even of a scientific nature. But there's no magic associated with it, there's nothing supernatural associated with it, but when these chemicals, as some people want to call them and that's what they are, interact with a human being, not every chemical produces a bad or deleterious result. Some of them produce very wholesome and healthful results. I think fluoride is such an item. I think the Governor took a political position. I think that his veto is not grounded on facts of the kind that should cause those of us who supported this bill to change. The Governor is not a scientist. The Governor is not a dentist. We made our vote all the way across the board on what we were convinced is a reality. Nobody got us up here and told us that some guy went under his coat and pulled something out and whispered magic words and shook it in the air and put it in the water, and the kids had no cavities. That's not what we voted on, and I cannot understand, and I will not understand, if between the time we sent this bill to the Governor's desk and it comes back here with his veto, that we have been totally and completely turned around so that we change what we had as a conviction. Senator Preister, as incorrect as is his conclusion, in my opinion, presented information that was far more substantive, that had much more of a credible basis in reality, than anything the Governor said in his letter. [LB245]

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SENATOR LANGEMEIER: One minute. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We had sufficient votes to override a veto. The same people who cast those votes are here today, and I think the way we voted then, when our minds were clear, we had had the debate, we should stick with those votes and override this veto. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Janssen, you're recognized. [LB245]

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Langemeier, members of the Legislature. I stand in support of the override of the Governor's veto of LB245. If nothing else, it will help the less fortunate children and adults with problems of tooth decay. The avenue to opt out is also in the bill for those towns over 1,000 population. And I was glad to see that the rural water was taken out. You can still, if you are underneath 1,000 population, you can still consider this, and there are a lot of towns in this state that are of that population size. With this, that's all I had to say, and I will give the rest of my time back to Senator Johnson, if he would like to have it. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Senator Johnson, 4 minutes. [LB245]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Janssen. What we've tried doing here today is just answering what was in the Governor's letter. He states, basically, that what we have here is an expense that we are mandating that the cities and towns take on without recourse. That is not true. The recourse is very easy and very simple for the reasons that we've been talking about. There can be occasions where the cost could be prohibitive, and that's why the opt out was made so easy and with general elections. So the main reasons listed by the Governor just do not hold water. I don't know where he got his advice from, but I would suggest that he have his advisors read the bill one more time and see that that is not the case. The other thing, and I want to get back to his, is that our Governor has made a point throughout this session, that there was not going to be any increase in expenditures by this Legislature, and by and large, this Legislature has adopted that premise, as well. What this bill does is it saves Medicaid dollars--it saves Medicaid dollars. Medicaid was going up at the rate of 14 percent just a few years ago. We've made a concerted effort to cut those costs, but there are better ways than cutting services to cut the cost of Medicaid. It is to have measures like we're talking about here, good public health measures. That is the best way of saving money and improving the health at the same time. So with that, again, please support the override. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Thank you, Senator Johnson and Senator Janssen. Senator Preister, you're recognized. [LB245]

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SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. We agree, Senator Chambers, Senator Johnson, I, and probably everyone in here, that prevention is the first line of defense, and if we can prevent the dental caries in children, it's the best thing to do. And yet we come to differing conclusions. I come bringing the perspective that fluoride can have a beneficial effect, and I have said that. But it has the beneficial effect when it's applied topically on the tooth. It has the most beneficial effect on the side of the tooth. It has the least beneficial effect when it's applied to the fissure or the biting surface of the tooth. And yet, 90 percent of the cavities that people get are in the biting surface. So it has the least effect in that area. A dentist can tell you that. So if we're putting it on topically, if we're doing it in a dental chair--and many of our low-income children are not going to have access to it; I did not, Senator Chambers states that he did not--and I have those same dental caries in my mouth that I wish I didn't have as a result of growing up poor and eating too much sugar without brushing and doing proper dental hygiene. So I'm sensitive to that component. The part that concerns me, beyond that it's used topically, is that we're ingesting it. It's not just sitting on the tooth, as it would in dental toothpaste, but it's being swallowed. How much of it stays on the surface is questionable. It's going into a young developing child's body in rates that are not measurable. It is in water, it is in food, it is in all kinds of substances in amounts that we don't know. And in young children, we are now seeing a warning telling mothers not to use fluorinated water for the formulas that they give to their babies, for just that reason. Ingesting it internally, systemic use, is not beneficial, and in fact there are studies that show it can damage the bone, it can damage internal organs, and it even can damage teeth, when it's ingested. There's a difference between using it topically as a medication and medicating a total population, and that's what this is. It's medicating an entire population and without control over dosage. You can control the dosage that goes into the water, but you do not control the amount of consumption of each individual, because you can't control the food, you can't control the water, you can't control the juice, and all of the other things that are taken in. In addition to that, you do not control the amount of bathing. A doctor will tell you our biggest organ is our skin. We absorb chlorine from the water into our bodies. Our bodies can only process so much of that chlorine. About half of it is absorbed. It is cumulative. Chlorine also leeches lead out of the pipes in the older homes that are in north and south Omaha, and in many of our other older communities. It's a leech aid. It pulls the lead out of the pipe into the water, into the system, and that lead we have a problem with, and we have children that are having high blood lead levels in east Omaha. I too am concerned about children's health. I don't want them to get something systemically that's going to harm them, when topically, indeed it may be good. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: One minute. [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: Again, if you look at a tube of toothpaste, it has a clear warning label--do not swallow. There's a difference between applying it topically and ingesting it systemwide, and the amount is not controllable. The EPA scientists, 700 of the EPA

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employees, said that the levels are way too high and that this is a problem. It's not just a few people. We're only beginning to get more data. There's only beginning to be more research, and I think the cost of other health effects can outweigh the cost that Senator Johnson is saying can be saved by preventing dental caries. I am a firm believer in prevention. If I thought that the ingestion, systemic use of fluoride was a good thing, I would certainly support it. I've come to a different conclusion. I respect those that believe it does good. It does good--it's just how it's applied, how much is used, and when... [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Time. [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: ...we have no control over it, I think that's a problem. I'm going to support the Governor and not vote to override. Thank you for listening. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Karpisek, you're recognized. [LB245]

SENATOR KARPISEK: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Chambers and I had just talked about, that a hotdog is a sausage, and he won't believe me. But now I've figured out, since he won't give, I'm going to keep standing up and clapping at him until he gives. And he'll holler "Uncle," maybe. I just want to stand and say that I do support the bill to override the veto. If the opt-out clause was not in it, I don't know that I could. I think we all have some questions about the fluoride. I do, but the opt-out plan, I believe, can let the local people decide. I don't think having an election is going to be a huge unfunded mandate. They have two different election times that they can try to opt out of it. They don't have to have a special election. So with that, Mr. President, I will vote to override the veto, and I will continue to clap at Senator Chambers until you hear a big, loud "Uncle"! Thank you. [LB245]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Thank you, Senator Karpisek. Senator Chambers, you're recognized. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Karpisek, I'm tempted. But from childhood upward I was told, yield not to temptation. But a writer whom I respect very greatly, Oscar Wilde, said the best way he gets rid of temptation is to yield to it. So I have respected opinions on both sides of the question, and on this fluoride issue, there are respected people and opinions on both sides. But when Senator Preister mentions a number of people who work for the EPA taking a position, the number does not determine the validity of the position. Sometimes there can be such a thing as a majority of one. It is possible that one person saying something which 999 other people disagree with could be right. What I'm wondering is why there's not some attempt, since we've had, if you want to call it that, an experiment nationwide involving children across all kind of lines--racial, ethnic, socioeconomic--why is not there

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some kind of testing done to see if you detect in these children the harm from fluoride that Senator Preister's research has convinced him is there. If we didn't have such a long history of the use of fluoride, it might be different. But that history is there. If my brain is slower than other people's, and I'm sure that it is, I say it's not from fluoride. Maybe if I had gotten more fluoride, Senator Carlson, I'd be a bit sharper than I am now. I am not in a position to alter my vote when I have not changed my mind. When Senator Karpisek made crystal clear how easy it is to opt out of this, that should carry some weight. And if there is to be an attempt to opt out, there will be in that community a discussion of fluoride. Maybe nobody is informed; maybe some people are. But there will be an awareness of it, and a conscious, deliberate decision by the people whose children are affected to say, I think this will hurt my child, it will not help my child, so I don't want this in the water. Because I'm convinced that it has been beneficial. It's not a miracle drug, it's not a miracle cure. All of these things should be used in conjunction with good dental health practices. If it cannot be shown that all of this harm is showing up in the children who have been using fluoride, then it's just so much academic, even scholarly debate back and forth. But they're not starting where Aristotle said they should start, and that's with observation. You look at what it is you're dealing with. You learn as much as you can about that, and then when you reach the maximum, you can learn from it. But you're going to draw some conclusions so that you can operate, then you extrapolate from what you know and start forming conclusions about what is most likely to happen when you get beyond that area where you have empirical evidence. And I think the empirical evidence can be gathered from those who have used fluoride, and that has not been done. Before I go further, let me ask Senator Preister... [LB245]

SPEAKER FLOOD PRESIDING

SPEAKER FLOOD: One minute. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...a question or two, if he will respond, Mr. President. [LB245]

SPEAKER FLOOD: Senator Preister, will you respond to a question from Senator Chambers? [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: Certainly. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Preister, I may be talking what I don't know. Have there been studies on a broad scale throughout the country, of representative groups of children who have used fluoride, and those who used it when they were younger, to see if these deleterious effects have taken hold and can be shown to exist in those people? [LB245]

SENATOR PREISTER: Not that I know of. [LB245]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, if I'm going to tell you that drinking water will kill you and everybody has drunk water and nobody is dead, you going to take the evidence of your experience and your eyes, or are you going to take what somebody tells you might possibly happen? Stick with the facts and the evidence, and err on the side of helping the children, if there is an error, which I think there is not. [LB245]

SPEAKER FLOOD: Time. [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. [LB245]

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Harms, you're recognized. [LB245]

SENATOR HARMS: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. I call the question, Mr. President. [LB245]

SPEAKER FLOOD: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question is, should debate cease? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record please, Mr. Clerk. [LB245]

CLERK: 37 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, to cease debate. [LB245]

SPEAKER FLOOD: Debate does cease. Senator Johnson, you're recognized to close on your motion to override the Governor. [LB245]

SENATOR JOHNSON: (Machine malfunction)...Mr. Speaker. Just a couple of things. One, my good friend Senator Preister, poor children don't go to the dentist to have the applications that you're talking about. The best way and often the only way--and fortunately, in Omaha they get it in the water. What I've attempted to do here today is this: is not to talk and have the argument about science. The Governor does not mention the scientific aspects of this in his letter at all. The Governor was with the Surgeon General two days within the last week. I suspect that they had a conversation about the scientific merits of this. That is not the question that the Governor relays to us today. What he's talking about is the expense, the unfunded mandate, with basically a command to all of our cities and towns, that they must do this. This is not what is in the bill. What the bill does is to challenge all of our cities and towns that now do not fluoridate their water to have this in-depth discussion and decide it on the local ballot, where they will know what the expense is regarding what this fluoridation will cost. So with that, I would ask that you vote as you did last time, or maybe even join this side and override the Governor's veto. Thank you very much. [LB245]

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator Johnson. You've heard the...Senator

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Chambers, for what reason do you rise? [LB245]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I would ask for a call of the house. [LB245]

SPEAKER FLOOD: There has been a request for a call of the house. All those that agree with the house going under call vote aye; all those that disagree vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB245]

CLERK: 47 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to place the house under call. [LB245]

SPEAKER FLOOD: The house is under call, members. Senators, please record your presence. Those senators outside the Chamber, please return to the Chamber and record your presence. All unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. The house is under call. All senators are present and accounted for. Senator Johnson, for what purpose do you rise? [LB245]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Roll call vote, please. [LB245]

SPEAKER FLOOD: A roll call vote has been requested. The question is... [LB245]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Reverse order. [LB245]

SPEAKER FLOOD: In reverse order. The question is, should LB245 become law, notwithstanding the objection of the Governor? Mr. Clerk, please read the roll in reverse order. [LB245]

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal pages 1574-1575.) 31 ayes, 4 nays, 14 not voting, Mr. President, on the motion that LB245 become law, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor. [LB245]

SPEAKER FLOOD: LB245 becomes law. Mr. Clerk, LB245A. I do raise the call. [LB245 LB245A]

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Johnson would move that LB245A become law, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor. [LB245A]

SPEAKER FLOOD: Senator Johnson, you're recognized to open on your motion to override. [LB245A]

SENATOR JOHNSON: This is the appropriations bill. Mr. Speaker, I forget the exact numbers, but they were not large. They were merely for checking the systems that might be installed, etcetera. With that, I would ask that the A bill be passed. Thank you. [LB245A]

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SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator Johnson. You've heard the opening on Senator Johnson's motion to override. There are no other senators wishing to speak. Senator Johnson waives closing. The question for the body is, should LB245A become law, notwithstanding the objection of the Governor? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who care to? Senator Johnson, for what purpose do you rise? [LB245A]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Does this require 30 votes? [LB245A]

SPEAKER FLOOD: This does require 30 votes. Mr. Clerk, please record. [LB245A]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1575.) 33 ayes, 2 nays, 14 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB245A]

SPEAKER FLOOD: LB245A becomes law. LB245, having been returned by the Governor with his objections thereto, and after reconsideration, having passed the Legislature by the constitutional majority, this bill has become law this 17th day of April, 2008. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose and do hereby sign said certificate. LB245A, having been returned by the Governor with his objections thereto, and after reconsideration having passed the Legislature by the constitutional majority, this bill becomes law this 17th day of April, 2008. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to and do hereby sign this certificate. Mr. Clerk, items for the record? [LB245 LB245A]

CLERK: Mr. President, pursuant to those certificates, communications from the Clerk to the Secretary of State regarding the transmittal of LB245 and LB245A, as well as a separate communication regarding the transferral of LB1154A. That's all that I had, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 1576-1577.) [LB245 LB245A LB1154A]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY PRESIDING

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will now move to LR404. [LR404]

CLERK: Mr. President, LR404, introduced by the Judiciary Committee and signed by its membership. Whereas, the Nebraska legislative hearing rooms have been named in honor of certain historic political figures and name plaques have been placed above the doors to identify the rooms and commemorate the individuals; Whereas, on November 3, 1970, Senator Ernie Chambers was elected to represent District 11 of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature; Whereas, Senator Chambers was reelected in the elections held in 1972 through 2004 to continue his representation of District 11; Whereas, due to the constitutional amendment placing a limit on the terms of members of the Legislature, Senator Chambers' service as an elected member of this Legislature will

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end on January 6, 2009; Whereas, Senator Chambers will make history by being a member of the Legislature with the longest length of service; Whereas, Senator Chambers, during his years of public service worked to make the state of Nebraska a better place for all, with particular focus on individual rights, minorities, the poor, and traditionally powerless groups, serving as a defender of the downtrodden; Whereas, Senator Chambers drew national prominence for his legislative accomplishments, requiring the divestment of funds in stocks and bonds of corporations or financial institutions doing business in the Republic of South Africa, and his legislative accomplishments protecting Native American burial sites and returning human skeletal remains and burial goods to relatives and Indian tribes; Whereas, additional major legislative accomplishments of Senator Chambers includes a ban on imposing the death penalty on the developmentally disabled and establishing district elections for city councils of cities of the metropolitan class, classified school districts and county boards, and counties with over 300,000 inhabitants; Whereas, Senator Chambers has served as a member of the Executive Board of the legislative council for 26 years, and in that leadership role and as a member of the Legislature, he has been a champion of the Legislature as a separate branch of government, promoting institutional autonomy and respect; Whereas, Senator Chambers has served as a member of the Legislature's Judiciary Committee for each of his 38 years of service in this Legislature; Whereas, naming the Judiciary Committee hearing room in Senator Chambers' honor would be a tangible display of the Legislature's respect and honor; Now Therefore, be it resolved by members of the One Hundredth Legislature, Second Session, that the Legislature thanks Senator Chambers for his historic 38 years of service, that the Judiciary Committee hearing room, Room 1113 of the Nebraska State Capitol, be named in his honor, that a name plaque naming Room 1113 of the State Capitol the Ernie Chambers' hearing room be placed above the door to identify the room and honor Senator Chambers, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Senator Chambers. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Ashford, you're recognized to open on LR404, recognizing Senator Ernie Chambers' years of service to the Legislature of the state of Nebraska. [LR404]

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Thank you, Speaker Flood, for managing this effort and suggesting that this would be an appropriate thing to do. And most certainly, thank you to my fellow members of the Judiciary Committee, who have all cosigned this resolution. Room 1113 is not the most prestigious-looking hearing room in this building. In fact, it's probably the most shoddy looking of all the hearing rooms in this building. But it is, on many a day, a magical place, and those of us--and I see Speaker Brashear in the audience--and those of us who have had the opportunity to sit in that room with Ernie Chambers and listen, it's very much like listening to a great orchestra, a virtuoso, someone who can talk about an issue in a way that no one else can. The words that he uses, the phrases that he

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uses, the frowns, the smiles, the expressions, are legendary to those of us who have had the opportunity to be with him in Room 1113. A couple of years ago I had an opportunity to be involved in naming a building in north Omaha after Ernie Chambers. While I was serving as executive director of the Omaha Housing Authority, the city council of Omaha decided not to name a park after Ernie Chambers, even though the neighborhood wanted it done. So we decided at the housing authority that we would name what was one of the most luxurious apartment buildings in all of Omaha at the turn of the 20th century, that we had rehabilitated to make it the Ernie Chambers Court. And it was a grand occasion, and Senator Chambers came to that event, as did many, many people in his neighborhood, to express their thanks to him for what he had done for them and for the north Omaha community, and it was a glorious day. And Senator Chambers spoke to his neighbors and accepted what we had done. Likewise here, this resolution reflects the desire, I think, of everyone in this body to do much the same thing--to thank him for his incredible service to the people of the state of Nebraska, and the incredible service to us as legislators that he has done, that he has made. I think, though, for me, why it is so important that this room no longer be 1113, but be Ernie Chambers' judiciary room, is the children who have been influenced by Senator Chambers over the years. Just yesterday I noticed a couple of children, one of them was my son, who came up to Senator Chambers and he shook their hand, and their faces beamed. And I remember a few months ago out at West Side Middle School when Senator Chambers went out and talked to an eighth grade class for an hour, did magic tricks and talked to them about the values that they needed to have to live a good life. To me the importance of Ernie Chambers Judiciary Committee room is that--his love of children reflected in the work he's done in education, but most importantly, reflected in just the expressions on the faces of those children that see him and talk to him. It's an amazing thing. And so from now into the future, as long as this building is here, which I trust will be a long, long time, the children of today and the children of tomorrow will see that name and will never forget, nor will we, nor will anyone in this state forget the contribution that Senator Chambers has made. Thank you, and I certainly urge, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, the adoption of LR404. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Ashford. You have heard the opening of LR404. Speaker Flood, you are recognized. [LR404]

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in support of LR404, and without going into great detail, I want to talk to you about a day that changed my perspective on our senior member. I was a second year state senator, the year was 2006, and there was a group of schoolchildren from Washington Elementary in Norfolk down at the Capitol on their fourth grade trip to see state government and how it works. And my office said, they're in the Rotunda; they've just spent about 20 minutes watching the session from the balcony. I went up to the Rotunda, and there were 25 kids in the class. There was one African American student. And I talked to them about the Legislature and how it works, and the process that we employ, and what state senators

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do. And then I said, are there any questions? And the one African American student looked up and he said, is that the same Ernie Chambers that's in our Nebraska history book? I said yes, that's the same Senator Chambers. And then he asked me another question. He said, how do I get to be like him? Thoughts raced through my mind at that point. (Laughter) And I thought about it for a second, and I looked at him in the eye and I said, you know what? If you want to be like Senator Chambers, you listen very carefully all day in school. You follow the directions on your homework. You go home and you get your homework done quick. You read everything. And when you're done with your homework, you read every book you can get your hands on, and you question everything. And that young man at that point looked inspired. He looked like he was a man on a mission. He had made a decision right there that he was going to be a state senator, and he was less impressed with his own state senator after watching Senator Chambers work on the floor while he was giving us the business. And at that moment, I recognized what Senator Chambers' contribution to this state has been. For a young man that probably didn't have a lot of hope or ever think about working in the Legislature as a state senator, he saw somebody that day that he could identify with, that he respected, that was articulate, that was exceptionally bright, and was controlling the discussion that day in the Legislature. And that's when I decided I knew the value of what Senator Chambers brings in here each day. And while this may be anecdotal, that's one hell of a good legacy to leave behind, and I intend to support the resolution. Thank you, Mr. President. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Speaker Flood. Senator Avery. [LR404]

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Mr. President, honored colleagues. I entered this Legislature just two years ago, and I feel very honored that I was able to get here before Senator Chambers left. But I have an additional reason for asking to speak. We ought not adjourn today without recognizing that we're about to complete the final session of the one hundredth anniversary of this Legislature. We are privileged to serve in a unique institution. Now I've spent most of my life--many of you know this--studying government and governmental processes, and after two years here I'm convinced that we serve in the most open and the most accountable institution in the country. We may not always get everything right, but I believe that we do so more than we do not. So as we end this One Hundredth Legislature, let us celebrate this honorable institution, and let us honor all those, past and present, who have helped make this the proud institution that it is. And it's appropriate that we do this, while we celebrate the unequal career of a person who has served here nearly 40 percent of those 100 years. Thank you. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Avery. Senator Pedersen. [LR404]

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislature. Most of us don't see Ernie as being a sentimental-type person. I'm going to share one experience with you that was really a wonderful time in my life in this

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Legislature, and it wasn't because my wife was sick that I was feeling so good. I was feeling very down and really rushed to get back and forth to the sessions. And Ernie stopped me in the step one day and he says, don't think I don't know what's going on with you, Dwite. What are you doing here? You've got better places to be. I'll never forget that. Thank you. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Schimek. [LR404]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of LR404, and I do it for all the reasons that Senator Ashford and Senator Flood spoke about. I think there is a unique and very touching relationship between Ernie and children. I remember hearing him one day on this floor talk about how he dealt with his own children, and how he'd get down on the floor on his hands and knees and play with those children. And I think there's a sincere love of children. But I also rise because Senator Chambers has spent so many years on the Judiciary Committee that I think it's very appropriate that that room is the one that is chosen. Over the years he has listened to prisoners' concerns, he has acted on their behalf, he has very much been an advocate for fairness in the justice system, he has cast an eagle eye upon the judiciary itself, and he has called to task when he thought they misbehaved--the judges in our judicial system--and he has been just a stalwart in making sure that people get justice and that it's administered fairly. And so I'm very supportive of LR404, and I thank you, Senator Ashford, for your leadership in this matter. It's been a pleasure serving on the Judiciary Committee this year with you. Thank you very much. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Preister. [LR404]

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I should get up and oppose this (laughter), and...that was good! I didn't even expect a laugh yet, and usually I'm so dry that that doesn't happen. But the reason that I should oppose it is because Senator Chambers is not somebody that wants to draw attention to himself. He's not somebody that wants his name up in lights. It gets there, but it's only for a purpose, it's only for an educational purpose. He used that purpose when he was questioning me earlier about fluoride. And he asked me, he said, should I change my vote because I respect you, Senator Preister, and because you're telling me that this is good for kids? And he was saying, in effect, that he wanted to do what he believed was right, and wanted to know if I respected that enough to give him my permission or my thoughts for him to vote the way he wanted to. So the way he would want me to vote on this, in some ways, is no. He wouldn't want this. But Senator Chambers, you taught me well in that lesson. So I'm going to vote the way in my heart I feel is the right way to vote, and I'm going to vote for it. And I'm going to vote for it because you've taught me a lot of life lessons on this floor over my last 16 years. You have been a master storyteller, you have used word and the expression of word to weave stories and to challenge each of us, particularly those of us who are Catholic and who are Christian. You have

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challenged us to not just believe what a book says. You have challenged us to take that and to put it into action. You have challenged us and taught us, by questioning us, whether or not we care about those that are imprisoned, whether or not we care about those who are downtrodden and impoverished. You have continually challenged, cajoled, and used stories to bring us out and to think and to question whether or not we have practiced what we preach. You have done it over and over. You have been as patient in your education as a good instructor could ever be. You do it with children, but you do it with adults. I have not always learned the lessons, and sometimes I've had to have them repeated. You have been an instructor in understanding and listening, just as many of the times I spoke you weren't even on the floor when I was talking about fluoride, you still knew what I said and you repeated some of that back today. You listen, you show understanding, and you demonstrate respect for all people. It's appropriate that as Senator Ashford said, it's a shoddy room. The Judiciary is not flashy; it's not showy. It's just the way Senator Chambers instructs. He's not flashy, he's not showy, he doesn't put on pretense, he doesn't wear a tie and pretend that he's somebody that he's not. He goes by Ernie. I have never met a more earnest person who's spent his entire life in the Chambers. It may be coincidence, I don't know; but a more appropriately named person I have never met. It's appropriate that a plain room bears the label of a very outstanding, unplain, unpretentious man, who would have you think that he's just Ernie--just a very regular person who looks out for regular people and helps all of us to go inside of ourselves to look more deeply, and become more and better of who and what we are and can be. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute. [LR404]

SENATOR PREISTER: It's an honor for me to have served with Senator Ernie Chambers, who I consider a friend, an advocate, the champion of the downtrodden, who I admire and respect and will say so publicly. Thank you. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Dierks. [LR404]

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. This is my 18th year as a member of the Legislature, and all 18 of those years I served with Senator Chambers. For ten of those years I was Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, and Senator Chambers was always a member of that committee. He had an innate ability to know exactly what was going on. He understood the ag issues better than anyone that I know. He might not be there for the hearings, but he'd be listening in his office. And when he came to an Executive Session, he knew exactly what we were doing. He was always a strong supporter of rural Nebraska. He understood the work ethic of people who were raising food for our citizens, and he respected that. I have to tell you one little story. When I was defeated in my fifth term, the staff in the Legislature had a farewell party for me, and the only people who were invited were staff. Well, Senator Chambers came to the room where we were having the party, and he said, Cap, I just wanted to tell you

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goodbye, and if I can ever do anything to help you, why, you just let me know what it is. And I said, well, Ernie, what about rural Nebraska? He said, especially for rural Nebraska. So Ernie has been a great champion, I think, of the farming industry and the ranching industry in this state, and I appreciate him for that. And I have no question in my mind that I will miss the efforts of Senator Ernie Chambers in this Legislature. Thank you. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Lathrop. [LR404]

SENATOR LATHROP: Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues. I wanted to join in the remarks and obviously, in support of the resolution. And I was trying to think of what exactly I wanted to say, you know? When I think of Senator Chambers I have the kind of a relationship one has to a mentor, because I've had occasion to serve with him in the Judiciary Committee. I can tell you, when I first came down here I went through this roster that we all have, and I was reading what my new colleagues do for a living. And I got to Ernie Chambers and I thought it was going to say he was a barber, because that's what I always thought he did for a living, and it said, defender of the downtrodden. And I kind of smiled and then spent two years down here, and it means something to be a defender of the downtrodden, because we have no lobby for the downtrodden. Nobody is paid to stand out in the Rotunda and speak for those on death row, for black youth who are victims of gun violence in north Omaha, for poor kids and black kids in north Omaha and their school system, and for small farmers, and for many of the groups that include the downtrodden. And in the last 150 days, I've seen what it's like to have someone here to speak for the downtrodden. I'm not going to suggest that he's the only one, because there are people here of conscience, but I think Ernie has, to me, set an example, and that is, we can take up many issues here, but ultimately, the downtrodden will be defended by our conscience. And Ernie is a man of conscience, a man of determination, and it has been an honor to serve with him for two years. And I will express for myself and the people of the state of Nebraska my appreciation for his service to this state. Thank you. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Lathrop. Senator McDonald. [LR404]

SENATOR McDONALD: Mr. President, members of the body, I've had the opportunity to serve with Senator Chambers the last two years in Judiciary. We all have our own stories that we can remember, how Ernie has touched our lives. When I came down here and my husband had passed away, many senators were giving me their condolences. Ernie made a special trip to come down to my office, and he sat down and he...with a tear in his eye--he's not going to want to know that I'm saying this--and said, I want to tell you, I have a soft heart. And I've seen that soft heart many, many times since then. He hides it well. The second time I had a relationship with Ernie, he came down to my office angry. He called and wanted to know if I was going to be in the office, and my office said yes, I was going to be there. He comes down to my office angry, and

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I'm shocked. I mean, I'm thinking, what did I do? What did I do to upset Senator Chambers? And he told me, he says, I heard you're engaged. And I said yes. He said, well, you never asked me. (Laughter) And I said, Ernie, I didn't know I was supposed to ask you. And I'm still not sure, to this day, why I needed to ask Ernie, but the...deep in my mind I'm thinking, you know what? Ernie is the senior member here. We're all his children. And being a child of Ernie, I was to ask the parent if I could get married. But the other part of it: He has taught us all. He has been that figure, and we have been his children, and he has taught us many, many lessons that we will take forward. He will be sadly missed, but we have learned many, many things from our friend and colleague, Senator Ernie Chambers. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator McDonald. Senator Wightman. [LR404]

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This morning I referred to Senator Chambers as someone akin to Mentor Graham. Now most of you have never heard of Mentor Graham. Mentor Graham was a teacher in a small town in New Salem, Illinois. And Abraham Lincoln moved to that town when he was about 19 years old, was a storekeeper, was a surveyor. And he learned most of what he knew, or at least his early learning...I say 19 years of age at that time. He had, I think, one year of formal education at that time. And I think to all of us in this body probably over the last 38 years, Ernie Chambers has been a mentor to all of us. I came in here almost 70 years of age, and I certainly consider him a mentor, and I think probably everyone does. So I think one of his great services to the state of Nebraska is mentoring all legislators that have been here over that period of time, and he's certainly done a great job of it. I think he's made deeper thinkers of all of us. So I want to express my appreciation to him, and I realize he's done many other great things. He's certainly been a champion of the less fortunate, the downtrodden, but he has also made us better legislators. Thank you, Mr. President. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Wightman. Senator Dubas. [LR404]

SENATOR DUBAS: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. I think this is very appropriate that we have this resolution before us today. I remember one of the first times being on the floor during debate, and Senator Chambers was asking some senator some questions. And I just...I started shaking myself, thinking, I don't know if I ever want to stand up and say anything because gosh, I don't want him to ask me any questions (laugh). But I also thought at that very moment, Senator Chambers makes me come to this floor prepared, because I'd better be prepared in case he does ask me a question. And you know, I want to be able to represent the issue that I'm going to speak to. I want to be able to represent it with intelligence. I want to be able to articulate it so it can be understood, and I don't want to be afraid of Senator Chambers asking me questions. And so those thoughts go through my mind every single time I get up to speak or I prepare for whatever it is that I'm going to introduce on the floor. I hold

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a lot of community meetings, and invariably, I'm asked the same question at every community meeting. You know, tell me about Senator Chambers, and that's what I tell people. And I also tell people, I wish you could see the Senator Chambers that we get to see, because you see the person, you see the TV persona. You see the things that Ernie wants you to see, but you don't get to see some of the things that we get to see. Like Senator McDonald said, about the soft heart, even though he tells me quite frequently he doesn't have one, I know that's not true. You know, I've seen him interact with children and animals, and he's been nothing but kind and gracious and respectful to me. He's helped me understand this process. Again, he's encouraged me and incentivized me to be a better senator. And I think...I started thinking the other day what kind of words would I use to describe Senator Chambers, and I think that list would go on and on, because I don't think there's hardly an adjective in existence that you couldn't apply to Senator Chambers, in one way or another. He's one of the most infuriating yet gracious people. He is knowledgeable, he is...you know, the list just goes on and on and on. And I think, as Senator Wightman said, we're all better legislators because of Senator Chambers. And I hope that just because he's gone, that doesn't mean we aren't going to pick up the gauntlet where he left it off, and challenge the new people that come in, and continue to challenge ourselves to know and understand the issues, to be strong in our convictions, to not back away from the things that we believe in, and not to be afraid to say the things that need to be said, even if they might not be politically correct at the moment. So I stand in wholehearted support of this resolution. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Dubas. Senator Aguilar. [LR404]

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I've been here nine years now, and one thing I learned from Senator Chambers is...I think I know him pretty well, well enough to say that he's probably in his office right now, working. But he's watching this out of the corner of his eye, and he's probably getting pretty sick of it. (Laughter) So I'm not going to beleaguer it or drag this out. Just want to say briefly, I love you, man. Go for it! Thank you, Mr. President. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. Senator Pahls. [LR404]

SENATOR PAHLS: Mr. President, members of the body, I just need to say a couple things. Tomorrow morning I'm going to be speaking to a high school group, and one of the questions that they e-mailed me today is, what do I think of Ernie Chambers. It's quite interesting, similar to what Speaker Flood. Two years ago my son, who's a sophomore in high school, I invited him down to see this process in action. And his first thing is, well, when am I going to get to see Senator Chambers? It had nothing to do with me. Almost every Saturday I have breakfast at a midtown restaurant in the city of Omaha. And by chance Senator Chambers is also in that same restaurant with his son. I'm amazed by...because I observe an awful lot that's going on, because it's a relatively

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large restaurant, I'm amazed how many people stop at his table and almost treat him reverently. They talk to him a little bit, and then they back away. It's really, it's an exciting thing to see how somebody really shows their affection to that individual. But I'm approaching this at a different direction right now. See, I see this as a celebration, and I will see this part as a celebration in Ernie's, or Senator Chambers' next step, that if he runs, very honestly, the learning community in the Omaha area, because they need his expertise to help that school system. So although we may lose something here, I truly believe that the children in the city or the metro area of Omaha could benefit from this person's ability to walk into a situation and analyze it, and yes, be critical. But you won't be able to talk around him, because I truly believe, if you've heard what people are saying today, all the things he has for children, that would be a major impact. So I'm encouraging him. In fact, I told him earlier on the floor I would be mad at him, which didn't really shake him up too much. But he needs to really seriously think about running for a position on that learning community, to make the area schools better than what they are, and to give them a different direction and to take a different look at how we treat children and educators. Thank you. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Pahls. Seeing no additional lights on, Senator Ashford, you're recognized to close on LR404. [LR404]

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I have a sense that I'm going to get more than 20 votes on this one, I believe. (Laughter) Thank you all for what you've said. Again, thank you, Speaker Flood, and thank you to the members of the Judiciary Committee. We are so much a better place, and so much a better state, because of Senator Ernie Chambers. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Ashford. You have heard the closing. The question before the body is on the adoption of LR404, recognizing Senator Ernie Chambers' years of service to the Legislature and the state of Nebraska. All those in favor vote yea; opposed, nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LR404]

CLERK: 48 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of LR404. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: LR404 is adopted. Mr. Clerk, do you have items on your desk? [LR404]

CLERK: At this time, Mr. President, I have nothing on my desk. [LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Hudkins, you're recognized for a motion. [LR404]

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues. I move that a committee of five be appointed to notify the Governor that the One Hundredth Legislature, Second Session, of the Nebraska Legislature is about to complete its work

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and to return with any message the Governor may have for the Legislature. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. You have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. I would appoint the following senators to form a committee to escort the Governor: Senator Hudkins, followed by Senator Schimek, Senator Janssen, Senator Erdman, and Senator Engel. Would the escort committee retire to the rear of the Chamber to escort the Governor. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting the Governor of the great state of Nebraska, Dave Heineman. (Applause)

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senators, ladies and gentlemen, special guests, I present to you the Governor of the great state of Nebraska, Governor Dave Heineman. (Applause)

GOVERNOR DAVE HEINEMAN: Thank you. Thank you very much. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, distinguished guests, friends and fellow Nebraskans, this has been a very good and a very productive session. Today we conclude an historic legislative session for our great state. This marks the end of the One Hundredth Legislature and 15 senators will not return next year. You can be very proud of your collective accomplishments. You will be missed. We are very proud of your service to the people of this state. I want to call attention to the 38 years of service of your senior member, Senator Ernie Chambers. From 1971 through 2008, Senator Chambers has been a man of principle, an exceptional orator, and a defender of the downtrodden. While Nebraskans may not always agree with Senator Chambers, they do respect him. I've enjoyed working with every one of you, and I wish you the very best in your future endeavors. In reflecting upon this legislative session, it is readily apparent that this Legislature addressed many issues to keep Nebraska moving forward. Two of the most significant accomplishments were balancing the budget by reducing spending, and preserving a robust cash reserve. With signs of an economic slowdown approaching, these two actions were essential for Nebraska's financial stability. Thank you, Senators Heidemann, Engel, Fulton, Harms, Kruse, Nantkes, Nelson, Synowiecki, and Wightman for your resolve in reducing spending and protecting the cash reserve. Working together we expanded our business incentives and furthered our goal of creating higher-paying jobs for our young people by passing the Nebraska Super Advantage. We lowered corporate income tax rates, which is especially important to small businesses. Thank you, Senators Janssen, Burling, Gay, and Lautenbaugh for LB895 and LB888. We also resolved the future of one of the state's most enduring traditions, the State Fair. The Nebraska State Fair will now have the opportunity for a fresh start in Grand Island, and the University of Nebraska can begin the development of Innovation Park. Thank you, Senator Erdman. LB1157 marks the dawning of a new era in education assessment for Nebraska. This is an opportunity to focus on educational excellence and academic accountability. This bill will put the focus on

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student learning. Thank you, Senators Raikes, Adams, and Avery. This Legislature also addressed some very difficult issues. Thank you, Senators Ashford, Lathrop, and Christensen for negotiating a compromise on the cloning and stem cell research issue. We have taken steps to increase government transparency and accountability. Thank you, Senator Howard, for your assistance in passing LB782, which will help Health and Human Services' leaders share more information with Nebraskans, in some of the most challenging cases they face. Additionally, the Department of Health and Human Services and my office are looking forward to partnering with the Legislature in addressing the challenges of the developmentally disabled in a straightforward, direct, and effective manner. I want to emphasize that I am committed to improving the quality of care for the developmentally disabled at the Beatrice State Developmental Center. This year we also fulfilled our promise to farmers in the Republican River Basin, whose partnership is necessary for compliance with the Republican River Compact. Thank you, Senators Carlson and Loudon, for LB1094. Finally, thank you, Senator Stuthman, for Nebraska's safe haven law. The Department of Health and Human Services, hospitals, and law enforcement have already begun discussions on how to ensure the best outcomes for children when this new law is utilized. Again, I want to congratulate you on a very good and a very productive session. I began this session by saying that together we can make tomorrow better than today. Working together, we have made a difference for our state. We are making progress, but we still have work to do. I look forward to next year as we continue to reshape Nebraska's future. I appreciate the opportunity to work with you, and thank you, thank you, for your service to our state. (Applause)

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Governor Heineman. Would the committee escort the Governor from the Chamber. We will bring the body back to order. Speaker Flood, you are recognized.

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I wanted to take this opportunity to recap our session and to thank you for your work. It can be said that we do the people's business. We did the people's business, and we did it well. I want to thank all of you for your sacrifice, for the time away from your families, for the nights when your kids didn't get a kiss and a hug as you laid them to bed, or your wife or loved ones didn't get to see you, for working late nights. I want to thank those who willingly bracketed their bills so that others could move. I also want to thank you for going the extra mile when it came time to put a deal together or to find common ground, for working into the night or on the weekends, or phone calls on a Sunday afternoon away from families. I want to thank you for working towards compromise. Our accomplishments this session are outstanding. I don't want to even start to list them for fear of leaving one of them out. To those senators leaving us due to term limits, a thank you to you and your families. Your work as mentors will shape policy in this state for many years to come, and you're always welcome back. To those senators with two years of experience that started last year as freshmen, you have impressed us. You

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have demonstrated respect for the Legislature as an institution, and I think I speak for all of us when I say thank you for what you've done. To the committee chairs and those returning next year, there were times this session, like any, that progress seemed impossible. Because of your leadership and assistance, we're where we're at today because of you. Thank you for your work. Finally, let's face it--we all know the importance of quality staff. I would ask that you hold your applause, but I'd like to ask members of the legislative staff to rise as I call out your division, and at the end I'd ask that we all give them applause and thank them for what they do. I'd start with the Clerk's office, which includes our Clerk and members that work directly in the Clerk's Office; the Bill Room; the transcribers; the Unicameral Information Office; the Legislative Technology Center; the Sergeant at Arms; the legislative pages; the Nebraska State Patrol; the Fiscal Office; the Revisor's Office; Legislative Accounting and Budgeting Office, Legislative Audit and Research Division; Ombudsman's Office; committee staff, and last but certainly not least, the individual senators' staff that work with each of us on a day-to-day basis. Ladies and gentlemen, these men and women work very hard to keep this one Unicameral in the nation as strong as possible, each and every day. I would ask that you join me in recognizing their service. (Applause) And it occurs to me I left one out. Even though he's from a different branch of government, we claim him as our own, our Lieutenant Governor, for doing such a fine job in the chair. (Applause) Thank you for a great session, and thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Speaker Flood. Speaker Flood, you are recognized.

SPEAKER FLOOD: As the former E&R Chair of the Legislature, in charge of phonics and misspellings, it gives me great pleasure to give the E&R Chairman Service Award this year to Senator McGill, who has done an outstanding job chairing the only one-person committee in the Legislature. (Laughter) It is hard work some days, and you can't always be so free with your time. You have to be in here paying attention, and she has done an outstanding job in service as the E&R Chair. Would you please come forward, Senator McGill. (Applause) Next award goes to a man we just recognized a moment ago, but it's worth doing again. He's done an outstanding job of working well with the Legislature and doing a fine job in the chair. Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy has melded well with all of us here in the Legislature, and for that reason and his service to the Nebraska Legislature, it's my pleasure to present to him, Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy, President of the Legislature, a plaque thanking him for his service. Lieutenant Governor Sheehy, would you please come down. (Applause)

SPEAKER FLOOD PRESIDING

SPEAKER FLOOD: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members, one of the, I think, one of our finer traditions is the acknowledgment of those members who are leaving and

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acknowledgment of our legislative leadership. To those of you who are leaving, on behalf of the legislative staff, I want to say thank you for your years of service to this institution of government and to the state of Nebraska. We also recognize legislative leadership. It is my high honor this afternoon to present to Speaker Mike Flood a plaque recognizing him for his service to the One Hundredth Legislature, serving as our Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your leadership, your vision, your fairmindedness, your energy, and your dedication in protecting the interest and the prerogatives of this institution are appreciated by all of us. From the members and the staff of the One Hundredth Legislature, please accept this plaque as a token of our appreciation. Mr. Speaker. (Applause)

SPEAKER FLOOD: Mr. Clerk, you're just happy we didn't go to midnight this year. (Laughter) At this time, we will move to our recognition of those senators leaving us due to term limits. I would ask that you hold your applause until we've had an opportunity to welcome the departing member to the chair. We will be beginning with Senator Joel Johnson. Senator Joel Johnson was appointed to represent District 37 in July of 2002, elected in November, 2002, and then reelected in November, 2004. A retired general surgeon, Senator Johnson has effectively led the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee. Among his accomplishments he has worked to reorganize the Department of Health and Human Services, championed an autism treatment program, spearheaded the enactment of the Clean Air Act, worked to provide fluoride in city water supplies, and has actively been involved in K-12 education bills. Senator Joel Johnson. (Applause)

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Probably have heard me too much today already, but let me just make a couple of comments. One of the things that I have seen or have been concerned about is that as you look through the history of representative democracy around the world and over the centuries, is that the legislative branch has become the dominant branch of government. With term limits, there is certainly the distinct chance that Nebraska will go in the opposite direction. I think what you've demonstrated today, however, gives us hope because we must remain a separate but equal branch of government. That's going to be up to the rest of you who stay here after the rest of us are gone. A couple of other things popped into my head. The great American philosopher, Yogi Berra, once said, when you come to a fork in the road, take it. (Laughter) This Legislature has taken the turn. We did not avoid anything. We tackled the tough issues, and when you take the wrong turn--sure, you're going to have some bad experiences by it--hopefully, you'll learn from these and gain wisdom. The correct turn, however, will lead to progress, leadership, and even once in a while, statesmanship. One other thing, when it comes to politics, that comes to mind with Yogi Berra's philosophy, is that if we always take a right turn, or always take a left turn, realize you'll do nothing but go in circles. And if you don't believe that, just look and see what's happening in Washington, D.C. And last thing or two, one of the things that we must continue to do is realize that opportunities often come disguised as problems. One

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last thing, and what it is, is this, and I wish he was here--he's retired to his office--but when I came down here my predecessor told me that all the easy laws had been passed. He was right. The problem from here on is that Senator Chambers will not be here to call your attention to that fact. Thank you very much, colleagues. Thank you, people of Nebraska. (Applause.)

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator John Synowiecki has served District 7 for seven years. He was appointed by the Governor in January, 2002, elected in 2002, and then reelected in 2004. He is Chair of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee and has been a consistent advocate on behalf of vulnerable citizens that suffer from developmental and mental disabilities. Senator Synowiecki's accomplishments include prioritizing LB40 in 2005, which provides sustainable funding for the critical housing component of mental health reform; significantly enhancing state investment into the Tourism Advantage Matching Grant Program; initiating funding for the Nebraska Arts Council School Bus Arts Grant Program; and advocating for viable criminal justice alternatives to incarceration. Senator John Synowiecki. (Applause)

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Upon getting the appointment to the Legislature, I need to confess I was not an astute study of the Legislature, of the legislative process. Fundamentally didn't know anyone when I came down here, and I came in a class by myself, such as Senator Lautenbaugh has done. And what I found was the title of senator was quite convenient for me, because I didn't know anybody. So I could say, thank you, Senator; good afternoon, Senator; you know. So everybody was senator to me. And then ultimately I learned everyone's name and worked well with folks in the Legislature, and then fast forward five years, and 25 or 26 new people come down, and I've reverted back to the convenience of calling everybody a senator. So it's been a tremendous experience for me, and while I arrived here essentially knowing no one, I will leave this place after having accumulated a wealth of friendships. Thank you. (Applause)

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. Senator Vickie McDonald was appointed and sworn in on August 10, 2001. By the end of this term she will have served District 41 for seven years and five months. She is the Chair of the General Affairs Committee, a four-year Executive Board member, and is Vice Chair of the Performance Audit Committee. Senator McDonald's legislative accomplishments include LB935 in 2002, which required that absentee ballots be returned on election day to be counted; LB756 in 2003, which created the Cancer Drug Repository Program; LB332 in 2005, which provided much-needed funding to the Gamblers' Assistance Program; LB1039 in 2006, that required the Nebraska Lottery to use 5 percent of their advertising budget for prevention, education, and awareness messages on problem gambling; LB1055 in 2008, which changes provisions relating to dangerous dogs; and LB1058 in 2008, which strengthens the state committee on problem gambling. Senator Vickie McDonald. (Applause)

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SENATOR McDONALD: Well, many people asked me when I first came to the Legislature, how did you become a senator? And I used to kind of laugh and tell them, oh, I got here the old-fashioned way, I inherited the position. (Laughter) Not many of you can say that. But looking back on the days that my husband lay on his death bed and said to me, you know what? I want you to be the senator. I'm thinking, oh, my! And as many of you were campaigning to be the senator, you were saying all the things you were going to do and why you should be here, I was saying all the things and all the reasons I shouldn't be here. I don't have a lot of college degrees behind my name, and my husband Rick would say, well, that's not important. And then I said to him, but I'm not an attorney. And he said to me even then, well, there are too many attorneys down there already. (Laughter) So that intrigued me. Okay, so I could be here. But what do I know? And I was a stay-at-home mom, rarely worked outside the family, and what could I bring to the Legislature? And he said, well, look at this. You went to school at a...(inaudible) but as a small school that was forced to consolidate. You understand forced school consolidation. Born and raised on a farm, you understand agriculture. You were divorced with children, working a minimum-wage job. You know what it's like to be poor. You represent probably 99 percent of the constituents that are in your district. There's no reason you shouldn't be a state senator. When I came down here, and I'm sure a lot of people, as they gave me their condolences thought, well, she's just here because her husband wanted her to be here. She's just here because the Governor said and promised that he would appoint me. And sometimes I wondered, when I first came down here, did I really need to be here. Everyone was kind and helped me, because I was a class of one. No one else was coming in, and everyone helped me become acclimated to the system. And I truly enjoyed the system, and it became a part of me. And it is the most exciting and the greatest experience that I've ever had in my whole life. Never did I once dream that I could be a state senator, a virtual nobody, knowing nothing about politics, knowing nothing about how it worked, basically who the Governor was! You know, what political parties are all about--I didn't know that. But I learned, and I learned, and I learned to love it. And I learned to love it so much that I hope to find something that I can still work at, because I still have fire in my belly to continue to serve this state any way I can, because I'm not ready to go out there and go home and do nothing. I have learned too much to go and just say, oh, you know what? I served eight years. But that's not been enough for me. So I will continue to find something to do to serve the state of Nebraska. They asked me who will I miss. Well, you know what? One person I will miss...well, I will miss a lot of people. But one person I will miss, and that's Senator Pahls. And I remember when Senator Pahls sat down here in Dierks's seat, and he was a freshman senator, and I would go out that way to the bathroom. And he stopped me one day and he said, Senator McDonald, I love your costumes. (Laughter) Costumes? Costumes? You think these are costumes? I will never let him forget that. These are not costumes. (Laughter) Thank you. (Applause)

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator McDonald. As a senator, Lowen Kruse has

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served this state and his constituents in northern Douglas County for eight years. Senator Kruse has been a dedicated member of the Appropriations Committee the entire time, currently serving as Vice Chair. He is also currently Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee. Drawing on his significant experience as a consultant to church congregations, Senator Kruse has successfully emphasized and implemented strategic planning on the state level. Senator Kruse. (Applause)

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you. It has been good, and I'm glad. I'll be leaving, and I'm still glad. (Laughter) What lessons did I learn down here, was kind of the question I thought of when the Speaker said I should get ready to say something. Lesson one, I expected when I came down here that my district would be clamoring for the things that my district wanted me to do down here. They did not. They wanted me to be a state senator, and I'm overwhelmed as I think about it. In eight years I have never once been asked to represent my district on this floor. I've traveled all over the state; we've lived all over the state, and I thought there would be some compromise there. But there was not. I appreciated that. I also assumed that the persons here were a little nervous about a pastor coming in, because pastors are wordy and preach sermons and things like that. For 13 years I was on the bishop's cabinet when it was my job to review pastors, so I know a lot of pastors close hand, in trying to evaluate them. I soon got rid of that concern, because I found out that there's no pastor I know of who could match this crowd in wordiness. (Laughter) So I relaxed, I didn't worry about it. He or she would lose a job out there. That's not a criticism of here; that's just who we are. Number three, I was assuming that persons would think that pastors had the last word on the Bible, and I should be saying what the Bible says. That was especially anxiety-producing for me, because there is no last word on the Bible. There is no final word on what it's saying, and how do you respond to that? And I found out this crowd is no worse than the local coffee shop, who is always assuming that kind of a thing, putting you on the spot and putting you into a little stance, posture, that was not your own. I also learned something from a previous comment here, about being called senator. That was very familiar, because in the coffee shop I was always called Reverend. They didn't pronounce correctly, as Reverent, and that's because they didn't know my name. So I figured out down here very quickly that when they call you senator, they don't remember who you are. But you look like one of them. I expected when I came down here to find a variety of friends, and that promise was fulfilled beyond my greatest expectation. What a wonderful variety of people we have in Nebraska! And when I say that out there, somebody will say, you know, well, what does that mean to the Legislature? I said, all of the state is represented here. I love this state. I've been...they said, well, we got some nuts in Nebraska. I say, yes, and they're represented, too. (Laughter) You are a gift to each other. This is the Nebraska gift of being in this place and having a chance to interact with all of the people of the state. Enjoy it! (Applause)

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator. Senator Phil Erdman was elected in 2000 to represent District 47 and then reelected in 2004. Over his eight years of service he has

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served as Chair of the E&R Committee and Vice Chair of the Ag Committee, the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee, and the Rules Committee. He has also served on the Executive Board. In 2007 the body elected him to chair the Agriculture Committee. During these two years in that position he has spearheaded the Ag Committee's historic efforts concerning the State Fair. Senator Phil Erdman. (Applause)

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And no, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I don't need the step (laughter), but thanks for offering. It has been an honor to serve in the Nebraska Legislature. And nine years ago, when a junior in college went home to his district and asked the citizens of the 47th Legislative District to elect him to the Legislature, I got a lot of funny looks. When I actually got elected to the Legislature and I got here, I still got a lot of funny looks, and some of you have asked me to get you coffee, make you copies, or do other things that generally are reserved to the pages. And I appreciate you for considering me for those tasks. (Laughter) It has been an amazing opportunity to serve the people of the 47th Legislative District. There's obviously been a lot of people help me do that. My staff and those that have graciously agreed for a small salary to help me whenever I needed it, their efforts have not been lost on me, and I want to thank them for that. We talk a lot about titles. We talk about the prestige and the honor of being a state senator, and I earned that title twice--once in 2000 and once in 2004. And that's an important title. It's important not only to myself, because I have the responsibility of representing those 34,000 people, but it's also important, I think, to the state, that we take responsibility for the actions that are placed before us, and we make the best decisions that we can. But one of the things that I was taught early on by those that came before me was, this place does not define you. This is not who you are; this is what you do. Remember that. This place will refine you, and some days it's like iron sharpening iron, but this is not who you are. We are Nebraskans, and we are here to do the people's business. Just as important as that title is, however, there is one more important title that I have earned as a member of the Legislature. In December of 2002 I was blessed and honored to marry Cortney. And the senior member told me that that was one of the best decisions I could make, and it was because she would make me a better person. And she has made me a person that I didn't think I would be capable of achieving. Being a husband is more important than being a state senator, and being a father to Grace Elizabeth and our daughter that...or our child that's going to arrive in October, is a title that I greatly cherish, as well. It's who we are. And I have grown over the time I've been in the Legislature. Fortunately, I haven't grown in size--I've grown in ability and for those of you that have grown in size, Senator Gay can assist you with that in his legislative bills and his fitness club. (Laughter) But I have learned a lot, sometimes the hard way. But I have done what I said I would do when I was elected by the people in 2000, and that is to represent them to the best of my ability, with the principles and passion and the perspective that I could bring to this body. I've done the best that I can. That's all that I can offer, and I have been honored to have been a member of this fine institution, and wish you well. Thank you. (Applause)

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SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator. Senator Ray Aguilar, appointed in 1999 and then elected in 2000 and 2004. Senator Ray Aguilar has given District 35 nine years of service. He is currently Chair of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee and has also been Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. His accomplishments include extending the Senior Companion Program west of Lincoln, drug court authorization, working for a smoking ban, enhancing Child Advocacy Center operations, and ensuring reasonable restrictions on the sale of pseudoephedrine, thereby reducing meth labs. Senator Ray Aguilar. (Applause)

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you very much. I want to take just a few seconds here to say, personally, thank you to many people. First of all, my colleagues I've had the honor and pleasure of serving with, both the new ones and the old ones. I've served with some great ones--Senator Landis, Senator Brashear, just to name a few. What great inspirations and what great mentors! Some of you have missed that honor, missed that pleasure, and I feel sorry for that, that you had to do without that. But you'll do fine with that anyway. You'll do a great job. You've already got off on the right foot. I'd also like to thank my staff. I think I have one of the most loyal in the Capitol, and I couldn't do this without them. I want to personally thank Patrick and his staff, the Sergeant at Arms. You too, Sally--I love you, girl. Kitty and the pages, they've been great. I want to thank my family for the sacrifices that they've made, and I also want to thank the people of District 35 that had the faith and the confidence to send me down here for nine years. It's been a pleasure and a privilege to work with each and every one of you, and of all the former senators in the last nine years, as well as many of the support staff in the Legislature. It's been an honor to serve my constituents and the state as a whole. It was a growing and learning experience, as well. This experience we call the Unicameral is certainly a unique set of circumstances that cannot be replicated anywhere else. I will always cherish my time here and the memories made here. Everyone who has ever served in this body came here to make our state better. I'm sure in our own way we will all continue that work in another form. Thank you very much for the privilege. (Applause)

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator. Senator Carroll Burling was elected to represent District 33 in November of 2000. During his eight years here, he has served on several committees: Agriculture, General Affairs, Business and Labor, Government and Military Affairs, Education, Revenue, and Committee on Committees. He was also Chair of the Tax Policy Reform Commission. Most of his time was spent on behavioral health reform which, he told me, he feels fortunate to have survived. Me, too! (Laughter) Of his many accomplishments, perhaps his greatest contribution to our state was in the area of tax policy. Senator Carroll Burling. (Applause)

SENATOR BURLING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Unicameral, and friends. A few weeks ago when I was asked to give a short talk here, because there's 15 of you, so keep it short, I...you know, I can do that! That's my specialty, is short

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speeches. I thought, what would it be like to stand here in front of this group and express some thoughts before I leave? And I thought, it's very humbling to do that, because Nebraska is full of good people, and a lot of good people in this building that I've worked with over the last eight years. And I appreciate every one of you and the help and support that you've given to what I've tried to do. You know, the Unicameral is unique, in that it's a very open process, and because it's so open, we all have something to contribute and need to contribute. And much of our legislation is arrived at by consensus and compromise, and I've learned that the process of compromise can be much easier if we get to know the person across the table from us. So in what we do here, relationships are important. So I encourage you to remember to get to know your colleague, get to know your staff, get to know the people you work with, because understanding where the other person is coming from, why the other person thinks what they think, is important in the compromise process of our legislative process here in the Unicameral. On behalf of my wife, I want to thank all of you colleagues of mine, and her work on the legislative league and the relationships that we have built together with spouses and colleagues. It has been relationships that have enhanced our life immeasurably, and we'll never forget that. Hope to see you soon. It's been an honor to serve, and I appreciate all the memories, and keep up the good work. Thank you. (Applause)

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator. In May of 1997, Senator Ron Raikes was appointed by Governor Ben Nelson to complete the term of the late Senator Jerome Warner. Senator Raikes was then elected in 1998 and reelected in 2000 and 2004. He has been a leader in the Legislature, especially in his role as the Education Committee Chair from 2001 through 2008. When I asked him for his three most significant accomplishments, he cited his meticulous grooming (laughter), his percent attendance, and his ability to avoid controversy. (Laughter and applause) All joking aside, Senator Raikes has, in his leadership position of Education Chair, spearheaded major changes to the education laws in Nebraska. These laws have included merging elementary-only school districts with K-12 districts, developing the learning community structure for Omaha metro area districts, and rewriting the state aid to school and community college aid formulas. Senator Ron Raikes. (Applause)

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is my opportunity to express my gratitude, first to you, my colleagues. First comes to mind the Education Committee. The group in the last couple of years has been just an absolutely outstanding group--the effort they put in, the ideas they've contributed, and the support they've provided as we have, I think, really covered some major issues. But that goes beyond the committee. I've had colleagues on the Revenue Committee that have been equally supportive, as well as in the Legislature generally. I would also like to express gratitude to the staff members who have worked with me particularly, those in the Education Committee and Revenue Committee. But as others have said, those generally that serve the Legislature, I think, have done an outstanding job. The people

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in the lobby we haven't always seen eye to eye, but at least they fought fairly, and I've appreciated their integrity. I found it a real honor to serve in the Legislature during the time I've been here. Following the Speaker's comments earlier, since I've been here, this has not been a body to dodge the tough issues. We have always taken on those tough issues and dealt with them, in my opinion, responsibly and honorably. I'll conclude by robbing a line from, I think, one of my colleagues, and that was, I wouldn't take a million dollars for the experience of having been here. On the other hand, as of right now, you couldn't pay me two million dollars to do it all over again. (Laughter) So thank you very much. (Applause)

SPEAKER FLOOD: Senator Pat Engel was appointed by Governor Benjamin Nelson in 1993 to represent District 17. He has been in the Nebraska Legislature for 15 years, serving on the Appropriations Committee this entire time. He is currently the Chairman of the Executive Board and has been Chair for the last six years. Prior to that he served two years as Chairman of the Legislature Performance Audit Committee. Among Senator Engel's accomplishments are his introduction of the Work Ethic Camp bill, which was enacted into law. This facility is now located in McCook, for first-time offenders. He sponsored and passed the enhanced wireless 911 service; he was instrumental in getting funding for the partnership of Wayne State College and Northeast Community College to house the college center in northeast Nebraska. He prioritized and helped pass the graduated licensing bill that has proved to save many teenage lives, and he has been a strong advocate for provider rate increases for the disabled. Senator Pat Engel. (Applause)

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my wife Dee has always told me, do you have any idea what you're going to say? And I hope I do by the time I stand up. And as you all know, that happens a lot to me. But I tell you what. I've served the Appropriations Committee ever since I've been here. I always said that was my penance. I've been on Appropriations for 15 years, served with a lot of great people. It's a great committee, and it finally paid off. I was invited by the White House yesterday to go see the Pope, so all that penance did pay off. So I did get to see the Pope, and he gave me absolution for being on the Appropriations Committee. (Laughter) But seriously, to give you a little history, my life has really never...I never planned my life--it just happened. But a lot of good things have happened and I've taken advantage of them. And as far as being appointed in '93, I never expected to be here as long as I have been, and I never really applied for the job--someone else applied for me. I didn't know who that was until this year, because nobody would ever admit it, because like I say, I was very happy in what I was doing. I had been on a school board, etcetera. I'm going to speed this up a little, Mike, because you gave me 5 minutes, and I said I'd only take 3. But I found out it was my daughter Julie, and so therefore it's her fault I'm here. And then...but it's been a great experience; I really enjoyed it. I wouldn't take, like Ron Raikes said, I wouldn't take the world for it, because it's been great. And I think thank-yous are in order. I do thank my wife Dee for helping me make the decision to

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come down here, and members of my family who have encouraged me and other folks who have encouraged me to do it. And without that encouragement, I would never have done it. As far as like Yogi Berra said,...he's also my mentor: If you don't know where you're going, there's a very good chance you're going to get there. And then I first came down here I'd never been in this body, except once, and that was by invitation. And so I didn't know a thing about the process. I hadn't planned for it. But I became a very good student. I was asking more questions than these fourth graders asked, and after I got down here I was passing those books out to these fourth graders, and all the answers were right in that little book, and if somebody just could have gave me that, I wouldn't have had to ask all those stupid questions. (Laughter) But I do want to thank everyone. I want to especially thank my staff. Beth has been with me or 10, 12 years now, and Janice and Kim. And I always told everybody I've ever hired I'm easy to work for, but I'm hard to keep track of. (Laughter) But it's your duty to do that--make me look as good as you can. You can't do the impossible. And they will attest to that, I'm sure, if you want to talk to them. I am hard to keep track of, but I do want to thank them for doing all they could to help me out in that respect. I'd also like to thank Patrick O'Donnell and everyone on the staff, the pages especially. I certainly enjoy the pages. In Appropriations we always have a page there that we rely on for advice in making our decisions. (Laughter) And this year we had Sam, and Sam did a great job. He helped us in a very, very difficult decision we couldn't make on our own. So his name will go down in history. But the thing is, with the...also the red coats and Sally. I told Sally when I went to her birthday party, I said, Sally, I'm not concerned about you being around for your one hundredth birthday, but I said if I'm still here, I'm going to come to it. And I'm sure she will be here. She's such a lovely lady and quite an inspiration to everybody. And I'm going to cut this shorter than I have written down here. I usually can't read my own writing anyhow--don't pay much attention to it. But as I said before, you've heard me...one time I gave the prayer up here, and I believe you all believe in the same thing, that we only pass this way but once, so any good that we can do, let us do it now, because we will not pass this way again. And I believe that's...in our Unicameral Legislature, that's how we all operate and hope we continue operating that way, and I know we're going to be in good hands. Thank you very much. (Applause)

SPEAKER FLOOD: Senator Don Preister was first elected to the Legislature in 1992 and has served 16 years total. Having served as the Vice Chair of the Executive Board, Vice Chair of the Reference Committee, and Vice Chair of the Committee on Committees, Senator Preister told me he could be called the vice of Vice Chair. (Laughter) Legislative accomplishments that Senator Preister is proud to include: environmental and renewable energy enhancements while working against harmful legislation; clarifying the open meetings/open records act to help the public be heard, including the original enabling legislation to go on-line with all proposed legislation; taking the initiative of assessing the service delivery process at the veterans' home in Omaha; then working towards the completion of our new Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home in Bellevue; and introducing, prioritizing, and shepherding to final passage the

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current Homestead Exemption for the elderly and disabled. Senator Don Preister.  
(Applause)

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable Speaker, friends all. It is time for me to leave. It's taken me 16 years to get a laugh, and then I get an applause in the same day. I want to leave on the top of my game. (Laughter) So it's time for me to go. But I go with a full heart, and I go because I feel good about the things I've been able to do, but more importantly, I feel good about the people that I've been able to develop friendships and work relationships that turned into friendships with. I count all of you as those friends. The staff have been wonderful to work with, supportive. I couldn't have done my job without my direct staff, and I've been fortunate that I've had one staff almost since the very beginning, Kate Allen. I'm particularly grateful for her expertise, her understanding of the law, and her experience, particularly in terms of areas of the environment. My thanks to her. As I leave I think about next January, and when all of you start driving down here next January, I too am going to get on the interstate, except I'm going to Phoenix to visit my niece. (Laughter) So I'm going to find a warmer climate, but I will be thinking about you. I feel honored to have been a part of the institution of the Unicameral, the unique Unicameral. I respect the building, I respect the process, I respect the people that are a part of it, I respect the diversity, even though that diversity is frequently a minority voice. I think it's important to be respectful of that minority voice, particularly since I've been it much of the time. But I know that I leave here, and the Legislature and Unicameral is in good hands. Those of you that will be taking the reins next year have good experience. It may be short, but you've got great abilities. You've certainly got the interest. You've got the dedication and the commitment that it takes. If you could get through the campaigns, if you could live on \$12,000, and all that it takes to go through this, you've everything that it takes to be successful. I'm confident that you will help the new people that are elected in this election cycle to learn as you have learned, and to help them to carry on. I want to just introduce you to my friend, "Zall." You've heard it many times. I came down here thinking that there would be times when there would be things that would divide me, and I would need to remember that we're all part of the human race, that we're all a part of the same body. And so when I first came down here, I started saying, my "friends all," "friends all." And so it was a way for me to be able to get beyond the difference, to get beyond the issues, and to see that we are one, and to see that we are truly friends and a unique family. And so it wasn't necessarily for other people that I started saying that. It was for me, and there were many days, I can assure you, I needed that reminder. Then I stopped saying it for awhile, and of all people, Gene Tyson, who sat right behind me, one day said, I miss you saying that. How come you haven't said it for a long time? The very next day Senator Chambers on the floor said, turned around and said, Senator Preister hasn't been saying that. What happened? I miss it. I figured if Gene Tyson, one of the most conservative senators, was sending me a message, and Senator Chambers, one of the most progressive, maybe it meant something to somebody else, too. So I started doing it again. It's been helpful. Any time a politician speaks, one of the other things that they

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always do is ask for money. So I'm going to end by asking you for money. As I leave, one of the tasks that I'm taking with me is, I think you're all worth a whole lot more than \$12,000 a year--I know you are. We, those of us that are here, got passed legislation to increase the salary from \$12,000 to \$22,000. However, it has to be passed by the voters, and I'm going to continue working on that campaign to be able to get that done in the next election cycle. So those of you that are leaving that have any campaign funds left over, I have a good use for it, to help do that campaign. And anybody else that wants to help, I will be working for your interests, even though I'm not here. You've touched my life, you've made me feel important. It has truly been an honor to be a state senator in the great state of Nebraska. I'm thankful to my family, I'm thankful to my staff, and I'm especially thankful to you, friends all. (Applause)

SPEAKER FLOOD: Senator Dwite Pedersen was elected to the Legislature November of 1992 and has served 16 years. During this time he has served in the following capacities: Vice Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee, Vice Chairperson of the Judiciary Committee, and Chairperson of the Committee on Committees. One of his proudest accomplishments during the terms he's had in office has been being able to bring attention to correctional issues and to be a voice for those incarcerated persons who have not had an advocate in the Legislature. He has worked with inmates to address personal problems within the correctional system, as well as making policy changes that benefit not only incarcerated persons, but all Nebraskans. Senator Pedersen has helped promote community corrections, work release opportunities, and parole in the state of Nebraska. He has also worked to improve substance abuse and mental health services for our population. Senator Dwite Pedersen. (Applause)

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Thank you. I've had several e-mails in the last couple weeks and letters that have said, thank God for term limits. I want you to know that at the Pedersen house, we are thanking God for term limits also. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve the people of District 39. Not once have they ever asked me to negotiate any of my principles or values. For those that I have served and are happy with me, you are welcome. For those that I have not served, I do apologize that I was not able to serve you better. For you my colleagues and the staff of the Legislature, I have been carrying the title of senator for 16 years, but you deserve it. I have done very little, but you have done a lot. My Barb and Bev in my office communicate with over 3,000 inmates, and I get the privilege of saying, Good job, Senator Pedersen. They've done it for me. My wife has sat home alone many, many days, sometimes very sick. She has done it for me. I'm anxious to go home and be with my loved. I have other ideas and other goals. I've got good health and I've got good energy. For those of you who are new, I leave here with complete respect for you and know that you will do the job well. You have. There's four people running for my position in District 39, every one of them good people. I'm looking forward to watching the Legislature and know that they will continue this job. But don't forget your staff, the Ombudsman's Office, who has done

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thousands of calls for my office. The people who work in your own offices, our committee clerks, legal staff, they've done the work. I know they call me senator, but you people, the Clerk's staff, deserve the title. Thank you very much. (Applause)

SPEAKER FLOOD: Senator Carol Hudkins has served 16 years in the Nebraska Legislature after her initial election in 1992. Her positions of leadership have included Vice Chair of Judiciary Committee, Vice Chair of Natural Resources, and Chairperson of the Rules Committee. Among her accomplishments she was successful in lowering the legal blood alcohol level from .10 to .08, providing clarification on the use of gift cards and gift certificates, passing several bills allowing for alternative agriculture, and redefining agriculture and horticultural land for tax purposes. In a letter I received from Senator Hudkins' daughters, they mentioned how proud they were of her and her 16 years in the Nebraska Legislature. Her daughters said in the letter, and I quote, "You've been challenged and frustrated and appalled, and still managed to rise above it all and perform with grace and passion, even through a bout of breast cancer in 2004. You truly made a difference for your constituents and for your fellow senators." I too know Senator Hudkins' daughters are hoping that she will find the additional time with her grandchildren to be more relaxing and enjoyable than dealing with the duties of a state senator. Senator Carol Hudkins. (Applause)

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How am I going to get through this now? The time has come, the Walrus said/To talk of many things/Of shoes--and ships--and sealing wax/Of cabbages--and kings. Well now, as you may know, these words are from "Through the Looking Glass," by Lewis Carroll. Now I don't talk much about sealing wax anyway, and after today, I will not be talking much about public hearings, amendments, filibusters, or calls of the house. I do feel a bit like Alice, however. She saw strange and different things, met some weird characters, and learned many new pieces of information. Like Alice, I must have eaten some of those magic mushrooms, because I'm definitely bigger now than I was 16 years ago. (Laughter) I am very grateful for the opportunity to have been a Nebraska state senator for District 21. This has been one of the greatest learning experiences of my life. Over 16 years I've met many, many of my colleagues, and other than a phone call last week from one who asked, "Are you out of your mind?" and I think you all know what that was about, they have nearly all been polite and courteous in their questions and comments. I thank them for their confidence in me and for their support. To my husband Larry I want to express my love and appreciation for your understanding of the things that we must do as senators, and if it weren't for him, I wouldn't have had this experience. The fact that we get invited to a lot of dinners helped his understanding greatly. (Laughter) Every senator thinks that his or her staff is the best, but I know that mine is. Jim Ruby and Lance Lambdin, legislative aides, and Shirley Bruhl, Linda Benes, and Bonnie Sittig, administrative aides, have been there with me and for me over the years, always taking care of the many things that needed to be done, and keeping me on schedule and out of trouble. All of you are very special to me, and I'll miss our times together. Two of the

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floral bouquets on my desk that you see are from current and former staff members. Shirley, Jim, and Lance, thank you, and thank you for your friendship. Another bouquet is from my daughters, one in California and one in Denmark. One is from my husband, and one is from a favorite colleague. Thank you all for your love and thoughtfulness. Before Larry's flowers were delivered Speaker Flood offered a half-price special on divorces if I needed one. Mr. Speaker, I've never considered divorce. But murder! (Laughter)

SPEAKER FLOOD: You better see Senator White. (Laughter)

SENATOR HUDKINS: And after today, I'll have to even reconsider that. And by the way, my floral shop opens some time next week. I've enjoyed the time spent in the Legislature, and I'll miss all of you--well, some of you more than others--and all of the people in the lobby. We have laughed together and cried together, and we have solved the state's problems together. The freshman class of 1993 will soon go down in the record books of history. Senators Ray Janssen, Dwite Pedersen, Don Preister, and Carol Hudkins came in together, with 11 other bright-eyed individuals, and now the four of us remaining will leave together. For being members of Senator Chambers' no-nothing class, and some of us have those buttons, we have done pretty well. Everyone connected with the Legislature has helped us in our duties, and we thank all of you. You have made our jobs much easier and more comfortable. It's nearly time for all of us to go home for the summer, and time for 15 of us to begin cleaning out our desks and our offices. Up until about a week ago I was ready to leave. Now that the final day of session is here, it's a lot harder. So now, as Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee would say...no, what they said never made sense anyway, so I will just say, hopefully our paths will continue to cross and we'll meet again somewhere down the road. God bless you all. (Applause)

SPEAKER FLOOD: Senator Ray Janssen was elected in 1992. During his 16 years in the Unicameral he has been Chair of Retirement, General Affairs, and Revenue Committees. His accomplishments are wide-ranging, including such things as being Chair of the Retirement Committee when the Rule of 85 was passed for teachers; placing the constitutional amendment on casino-style gaming before the voters; comprehensive reform of Nebraska liquor license structure and fees; the 2007 tax-cut package; and even ensuring that cheese labels do not have to be face up in grocery stores. (Laughter) Senator Ray Janssen. (Applause)

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, my family, and all of you, this family out here. First of all, I would like to thank my family, my store employees, for all of the support they have given me so that I could serve in this, our Unicameral. Second of all, I would like to thank the voters of the 15th Legislative District for electing me and allowing me to serve four terms, and for all of those who helped on my campaigns, and especially including my treasurer. I've been blessed with a great

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number of excellent former and present staff during my 16 years. Without them I could never have been able to achieve much of anything, and many of those people, present and former employees, are under the north balcony. When I was elected in 1992, there were 15 new members, and as Senator Hudkins says, there are four of us left. I have been lucky to serve with so many talented and caring people, who have given so much to our state and have made Nebraska a better place to live during that time. I remember the first bill that I introduced into committee was to change the fees on a fireworks display license. No, it wasn't an Adrian Smith bill, as you can all remember. (Laughter) And guess what? It passed. I introduced four bills my first year, and three of them passed. I haven't had that luck since. (Laughter) The fourth bill went to the Judiciary Committee, and I had my first ever experience with Senator Chambers at that hearing. Earlier today as my wife and I drove down here from Nickerson, she asked me if I remembered the first drive down 16 years ago. I did, and I told her I remembered saying, what in the world am I doing? I never would have thought that I would be standing here 16 years later, let me tell you that! But it has been, and it's been a great run. Thanks again to all who have been with me during my time in the Unicameral and especially my family. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the people of Nebraska in this, the best legislative system in the world. And with that, I bid you a fond adieu. (Applause)

SPEAKER FLOOD: Senator DiAnna Schimek was elected in 1988. In her 20 years of service, she has been in leadership positions on many legislative committees. Vice Chair, Government, Military and Veterans Affairs; Vice Chair, Urban Affairs; Chair, Government, Military and Veterans Affairs; Vice Chair, Redistricting Committee; a long-standing member on the Committee on Committees; an Executive Board member; Chair, Performance Audit Committee; Chair, Special Committee on Sexual Harassment, the only all-woman committee in the history of the Nebraska Legislature; and Chair of the Gender Equity Committee. Her proudest accomplishments include low-income screening and mandated coverage for mammography, recodification of the election law, women's health initiative, ex-felons' voting rights restored, and in-state tuition. I would like to extend a special thank-you to her for her graciousness and assistance to me in the last two years during her service to the Legislature. Senator DiAnna Schimek. (Applause)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm fine. And I got up here, and I was fine until you said that, and it made me a little teary, I guess, because it has been a pleasure working with you, as well. And you know, I had a speech all ready, and it is so marked up that I don't know if I can possibly get through it. Every time I heard somebody speak today, it gave me a different thought and a different direction to go. But I'm delighted to be here, and I want to let you know that I came in with the class of 1989. There were eight of us: Doug Kristensen, LaVon Crosby, Jennie Robak, John Lindsay, Sharon Beck, Dennis Byars, and Spence Morrissey, and they were wonderful. But there are none of them left. They've all gone. And the only one that was here at that

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time that's still left is Senator Ernie Chambers. Over the years I've been privileged to serve with senators from every walk of life, from all parts of the state, and from every slot on the political spectrum. They have, without a doubt, become extended family, and they remained so after they left office. They have been, as Senator Preister so aptly puts it, friends all. There are so many memories of these years--some funny, some sad, some kind of classic, urban legends, if you would. I got to tell this, Brad. I'm sorry, but I don't know if you know about Brad Ashford and Jerry Chizek's relationship, but they always rode to Lincoln together from Omaha. And time after time, certainly more than once or twice, Senator Chizek would go looking for Brad when it was time to go home, and he'd find that Senator Ashford had already left without him. (Laughter) That's one of my favorite stories. Another one is kind of one that is on me, I guess. Dennis Baack was Speaker of the Legislature at that time, Mr. Flood, Senator Flood, and you know the way you always announce birthdays from the podium? Well, I was having a real hard birthday. It was 5-0. And he gets up and announces my birthday as my 60th birthday. (Laughter) I was a little bit taken back and actually got even with him by taking out an ad in his local paper on November 11, which is his birthday, to get even with him. But there are others. I know Ron Withem and David Bernard-Stevens were sitting right back there behind me, where Senator Louden and Senator Fischer are sitting now, and they just heckled me, and they told me every kind of story you can imagine, because they considered that I was very gullible, and I was very gullible. But one day I came into the Legislature; it was a call of the house. And this wasn't when I was brand new, I'm ashamed to admit. But I turned around to them and I said, they're taking call-in votes, right? I said, where do I call in my vote? And they never let me forget that one, either. (Laughter) I'd like to thank my family for their support over the years--my mom for her kind suggestions, such as your shoulder pads aren't sitting straight (laughter), her interest in the Legislature, and her systematic taping of much of our legislative debate over the years. It's going to be fun to go back and watch some of that; my husband for his adaptability in learning to live with a determined--read stubborn or hardheaded--woman; and my sons for not minding my commitment to the job of being a legislator. I'm also grateful to my constituents for letting me represent them over the years, to all of you, my colleagues, and the wonderful legislative staff over the years. After 20 years you really probably shouldn't go through the list, but I would like to thank Stephanie Simons and Nick Faustman for their support over the last couple of years. Just as the class of 1989 holds a special place in my memories, so does the class of 15 who are term limited--201 years of experience, the Omaha World-Herald said this morning. But it doesn't tell a story of the long hours, the disappointments, the victories, the exhilaration, the special talents and experiences each of us brought with us, the fun we had, nor the satisfaction we had in doing our jobs. But you all know the story, and you all will have your place in the history of this place. Go forth and do great things. I wish you all the best. There are two pieces of advice I would give those who follow: First, use the power given you to make wise decisions on behalf of those you represent, and not for your own self-interest; and two, enjoy and cherish the experience. I'm reminded of Emily Gibbs in Thornton Wilder's play, Our Town, who asked after her

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death, "Doesn't anyone ever realize life while they live it, every minute?" It seems an appropriate question to ask as it relates to legislative experience. Don't ever take one moment for granted, enjoy every minute, and appreciate your opportunity to serve. Thank you so much for your friendship. (Applause)

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Let us all now recognize the class of 15 leaving the Legislature. (Applause) While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LR398 and LR404. [LR398 LR404]

PRESIDENT SHEEHY PRESIDING

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Raikes, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR RAIKES: Mr. President, I move that all bills not otherwise disposed of, excluding bills on Final Reading and vetoed or line-itemed vetoed bills on this date be indefinitely postponed.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Motion passes. Senator Preister, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I move that the chairpersons of all standing committees file with the Clerk of the Legislature all standing committee records, so that a proper record can be made of the final disposition of all bills.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the motion. All in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Motion passes. Senator Janssen, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Mr. President, I move that the Legislature approve the preparation and the printing of the permanent Legislative Journal, session laws, and the indexes by Patrick J. O'Donnell.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have all heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Motion passes. Senator Pedersen, you're recognized for a motion.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. President, I move that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to send to each member of the Legislature a copy of the loose-leaf session laws and of the permanent journal and session laws.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Motion passes. Senator Schimek, you're recognized for a motion.

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SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President, I move that the journal for the 60th day, as prepared by the Clerk of the Legislature, be approved.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Motion passes. Senator Engel, you are recognized for a motion.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I move that the One Hundredth Legislature, Second Session of the Nebraska Legislature, having finished all business before it now at 4:39 p.m., on April 17, 2008, adjourn sine die.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: You have heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. We stand adjourned, sine die.